



INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Hazards of working around helicopter sling loads Ontario mining operations incident results in fatality

Details: A three-member ground crew was assisting a helicopter pilot in putting down heavy equipment carried by tag lines. As the pilot lifted off, one worker became entangled and subsequently fell to his death.

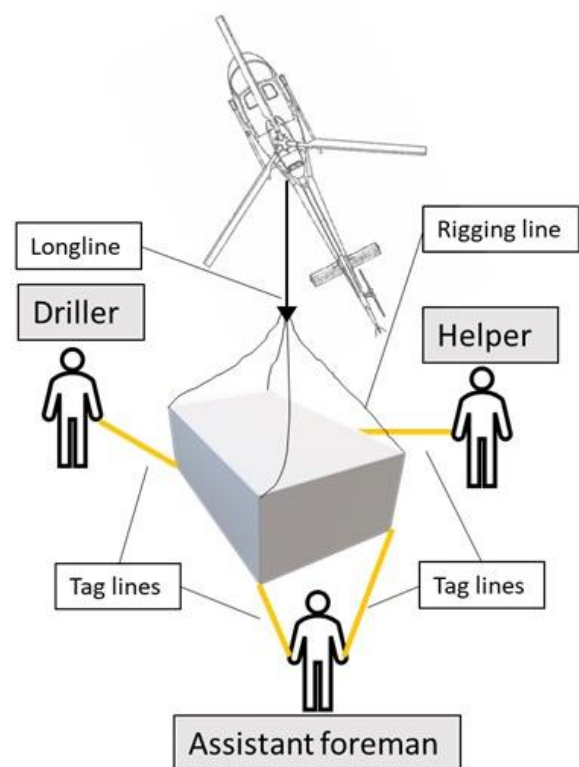
A similar but non-fatal incident occurred with the same helicopter about a week before this incident.

Although it occurred in the mining sector, the information is relevant to BC's forest industry as field operations often utilize helicopters to transport bulky and heavy equipment to worksites not readily accessible by surface vehicles.

Companies involved in silviculture, firefighting and general forestry operations that involve the use of helicopters to transport and place equipment can benefit from the Transportation Safety Board's (TSB) recent report into the 2023 incident in Ontario.

Learnings & Suggestions: View the [TSB's web site for further details](#) of the report's findings.

Additional Resource: BCFSC document, [Safe Work Procedure – Helicopter Safety and Slings](#)



Not to scale

Diagram showing the cage, the helicopter (as it would have been oriented 100 to 150 feet overhead), and the tag lines held by the ground crew members (Source: TSB)



BC Forest Safety

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