INDUSTRY

SAFETY ALERT

Flagging tape causes helicopter crash

Location: Australia (May 2025)

Details: During a sightseeing flight in a Robinson R44 Raven II helicopter, a 17-metre length of blue flagging tape somehow became entangled in the helicopter's main rotor swash plate, as well as the tail rotor driveshaft bearing.

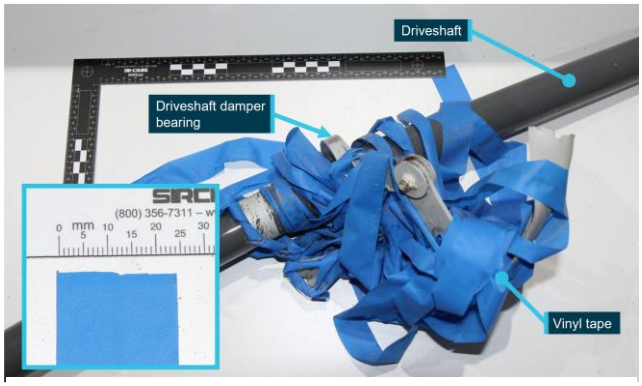
This incident is relevant to BC forestry operations involving helicopters, since flagging tape is used within the industry..

People often do not consider flagging tape to be a potential hazard, since it is light, and easy to break / tear; however, under certain circumstances, it can retain its strength and may contribute to a serious incident.
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The model of helicopter involved

More Information: View the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's full report by clicking here.



Blue vinyl survey tape, wrapped around the tail rotor driveshaft and damper bearing

To share a safety alert click here

BC **Forest Safety**

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