

WORDS HAVE MEANING

Greg Brown: Director of Education and Training VAI

Helicopter Accident Case Study

- Pilot Ignored Visual Warning Signs
- Perceived Pressure to get the aircraft “Up”
- A Safety Training Presentation



Scenario Overview

- A pilot flew despite clear signs of mis-rigging.



Out of Rig Explained

- Misalignment in control systems impacts flight safety.



Visual Warning Signs

- Unusual controls, drift, vibration.



Decision Failure



- Ignoring warning signs leads to risk escalation.

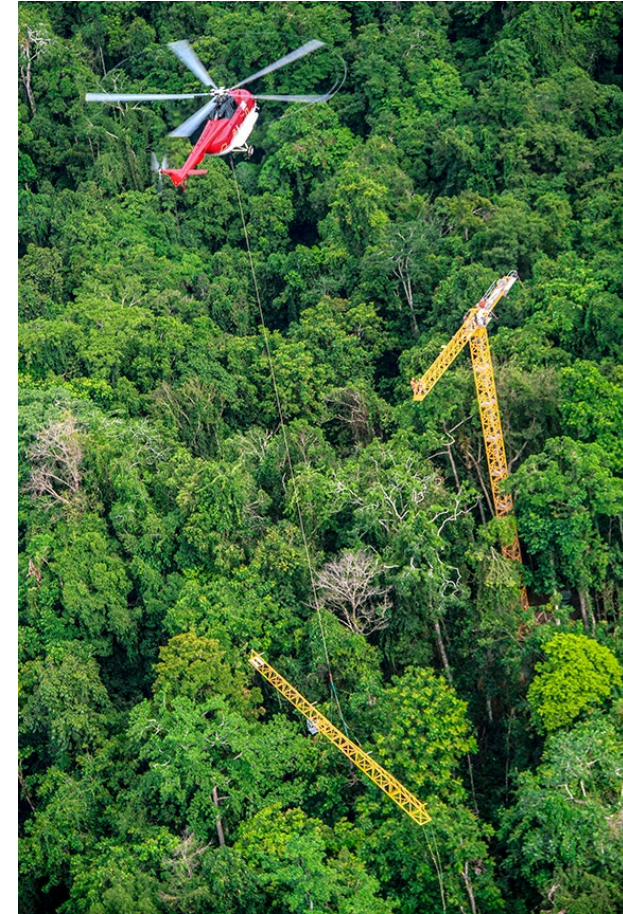
Chain of Events

- Indications → Ignored → Loss of control → Accident



Human Factors

- Complacency, pressure, bias.



Consequences

- Damage, injury, financial loss.



Lessons Learned

- Never ignore warning signs.



Prevention



- Training, inspections, safety culture.

Discussion

- What would you do differently?



Conclusion

- Recognize risks. Make the right decision.



Decision Moment

- You're the pilot.
- You notice:
 - - Controls slightly off-center
 - - Aircraft wants to drift
 - - Minor vibration
- Do you:
 - A) Continue the flight
 - B) Pause and investigate
 - C) Shut down and call maintenance



Findings (FAA/NTSB Style)

- Probable Cause:
- Pilot operated aircraft with abnormal indications.
- Contributing Factors:
 - - Improper rigging
 - - Ignoring Indications
 - - Human factors



Final Gut Check



Before every flight, ask yourself:



- Am I ignoring anything I shouldn't?



- Would I fly this aircraft with my family onboard?



- What is my backup plan if something feels wrong?



Because the accident chain doesn't start in the air...



It starts with a decision.

Questions



Operations Manual: Follow Them

Greg Brown: Director of Education and Training VAI

LOW FUEL DECISION MAKING – HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

- Mission Risk
- Critical Decisions
- Asserting concerns to senior aviators during operations



The Story

- What Happened?



THE MOMENT AFTER SUCCESS

- Mission complete
- Fuel lower than expected
- Return phase begins risk



HUMAN FACTORS

- Get-home-itis
- Mission mindset
- Overconfidence
- “Commanders’/ CEOs’ suggestion”



DECISION WINDOW

- 15 min to base closure
- min fuel indication
- IFR weather
- Options decreasing



CORRECT ACTION

- Divert to Alternate
- VFR at Alternate
- Keep Options





KEY LESSONS

Be Forceful but
Respectful

Discuss Operations
Manual Violations

FINAL IMPACT



- Explain early landing
- Or explain failure