



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



SAFETY ALERT

Alert #: SA 29-26

Date: May 22, 2026

Unsecured Connex Door – Near Miss During Helicopter Operations

During helicopter operations, an employee was walking across the main deck to retrieve an air hose located near the NuWave connex. While returning to the job site, he passed another contractor's connex where the door had not been fully secured. Rotor wash from the operating helicopter caused the unsecured connex door to swing open suddenly, nearly striking him. No injuries resulted from this incident.

What Happened:

- Helideck operations were in progress, generating high rotor wash
- A connex door from a nearby contractor was not fully secured
- Wind force from rotor wash caused the door to swing open unexpectedly
- The door narrowly missed striking a worker passing through the area

Immediate Cause:

- Unsecured connex door exposed to rotor wash forces

Contributing Factors:

- Failure to verify doors and loose items were secured prior to helicopter operations
- Inadequate hazard recognition of rotor wash impact on surrounding equipment

Regulatory & Industry Guidance:

- **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.183 (Helicopters)** requires employers to protect personnel from rotor wash hazards and ensure all loose gear and objects in affected areas are secured or removed.
- **OSHA 29 CFR 1910.176 (Material Handling & Storage)** requires materials to be stored and secured to prevent shifting or creating hazards.

Required Preventative Actions:

- Secure **all doors, panels, and loose materials** prior to helicopter arrivals/departures
- Conduct **pre-operation visual checks** in all work areas
- Limit movement and **use designated safe walk paths** during helicopter operations
- Maintain **constant situational awareness** in dynamic environments
- **If you see an unsecured hazard, exercise Stop Work Authority and correct it immediately**

If rotor wash can move it, **it must be secured**.

Situational awareness means recognizing not only your task, but also your surroundings, changing conditions, and hazards created by others.

Key Takeaways:

- **Rotor wash can rapidly turn unsecured items into serious struck-by hazards**
- **Routine movements during helicopter operations carry elevated risk**
- **Hazards created by one work group can impact all personnel on location**

Safety is value, not a priority. Priorities can change; our commitment to protecting one another cannot.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment

