



Federal Aviation
Administration

Rotorcraft Directorate ASW-100

Monthly Accident Briefing

September 2015

By: ASW-112, Safety Management Group



FY 15 – U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Accidents

Cumulative Counts – 116 Accidents, 19 Fatal Accidents, 31 Fatalities

Same time period, previous FY: 129 Accidents, 20 Fatal Accidents, 32 Fatalities

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Accidents:	11	4	9	5	8	13	4	11	8	16	17	10	116
Fatal:	2	0	3	2	0	4	2	1	1	3	0	1	19
Fatalities:	6	0	5	3	0	7	2	1	1	5	0	1	31

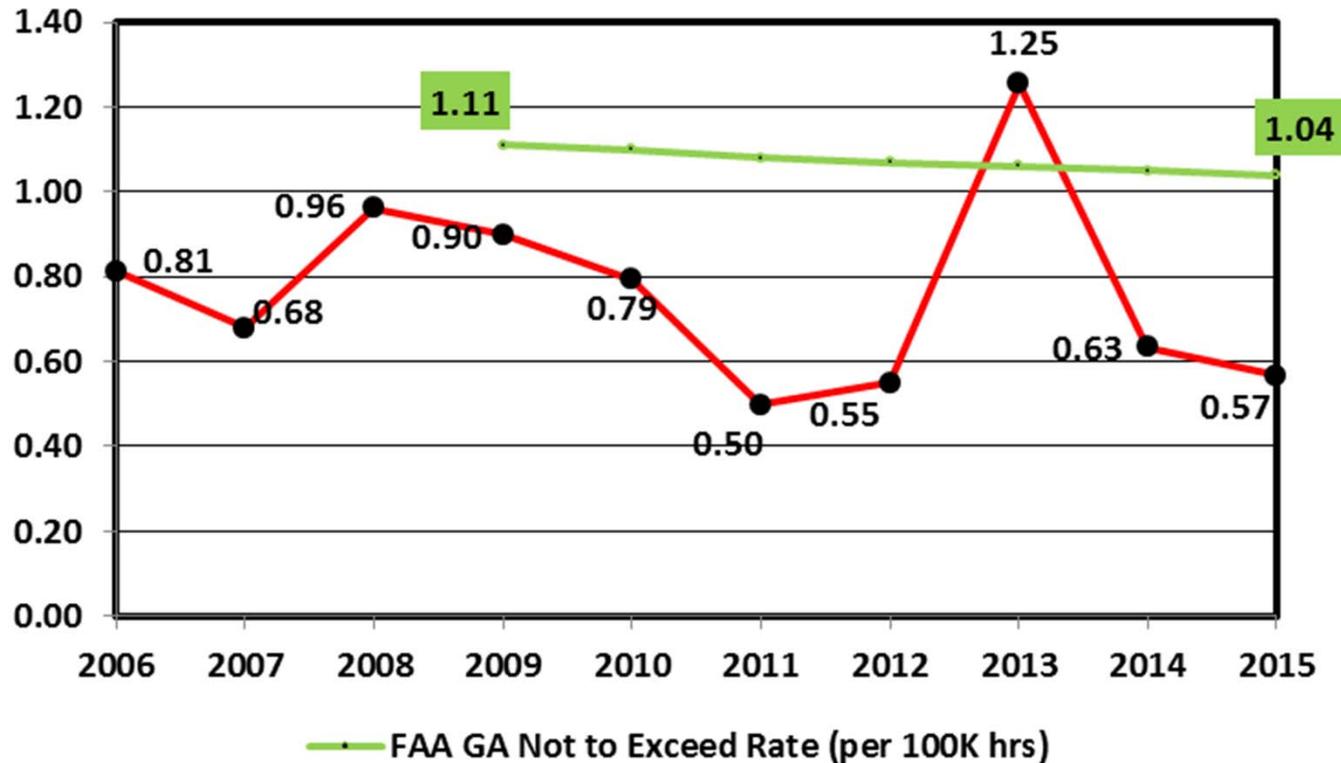
Data Source: FAA, NTSB Databases. Includes only events classified as accidents and does not include incidents. The accident numbers for each month of the Fiscal Year may vary from the previous monthly briefing based on analysis between FAA and NTSB databases for the specified month. The NTSB database may include accidents that were not reported to this office resulting in slightly different numbers.

Accident Operations Summary (Cumulative)

Acronyms: HAA = Helicopter Air Ambulance, ENG = Electronic News Gathering, GA = General Aviation, GOM = Gulf of Mexico

	HAA 91/ 135	GOM 91/ 135	Part 133	Part 135 Other	Air Tour 91/135/136	Part 137	ENG 91/ 135	GA 91	N Reg Outside U.S.
Accidents:	8	3	5	3	2	16		77	2
Fatal:	5	0	0	0	0	2		11	1
Fatalities:	7	0	0	0	0	2		21	1

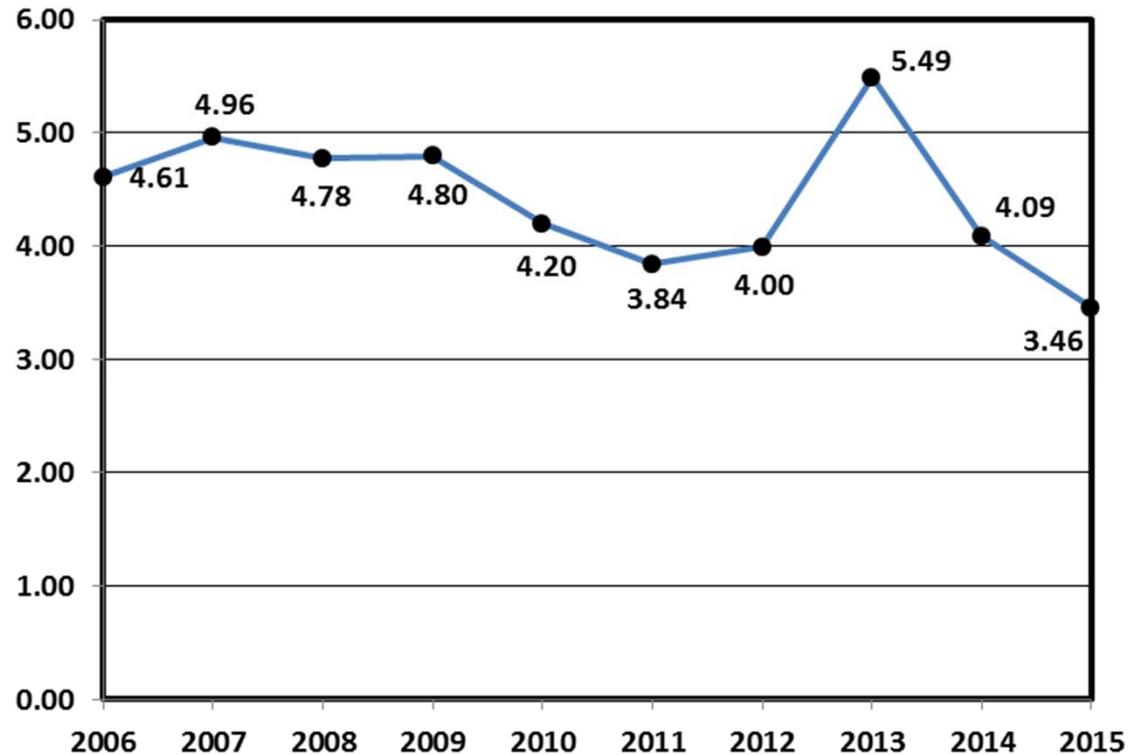
Estimated Rotorcraft FATAL Accident Rate (per 100,000 hours) – 10 Year Lookback



Rate calculation based on the following:

- 1) Accident totals compiled by ASW-112.
- 2) Historic rotorcraft flight hours extracted from General Aviation and Part 135 Activity Survey. The survey categorizes flight hours by calendar year. Assumption was that hours would be comparable if used for fiscal year calculations.
- 3) FYs 11 & 14 rotorcraft flight hours and the projected hours for FY 15 were based on the FAA's FY2015-2035 forecast.

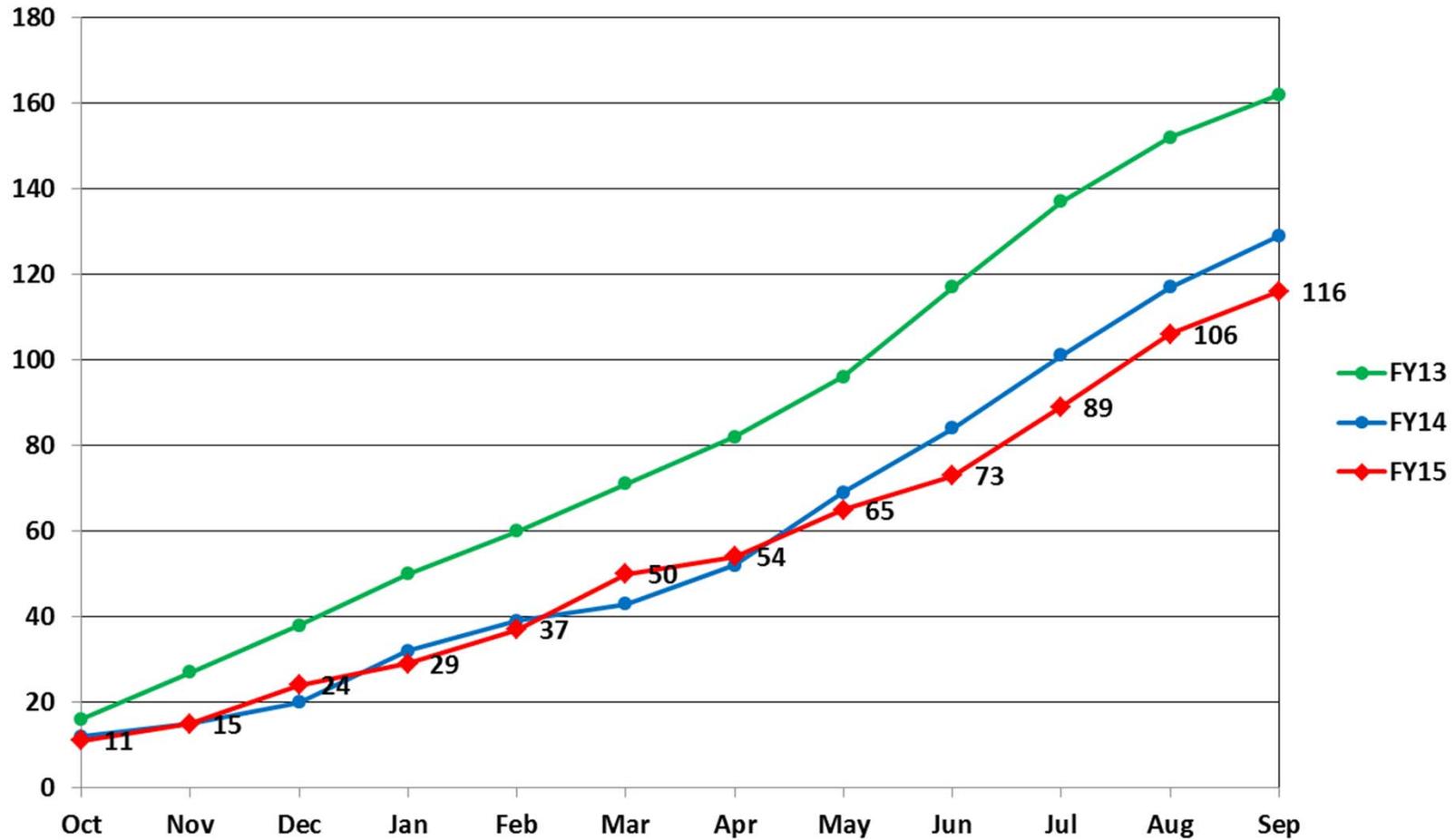
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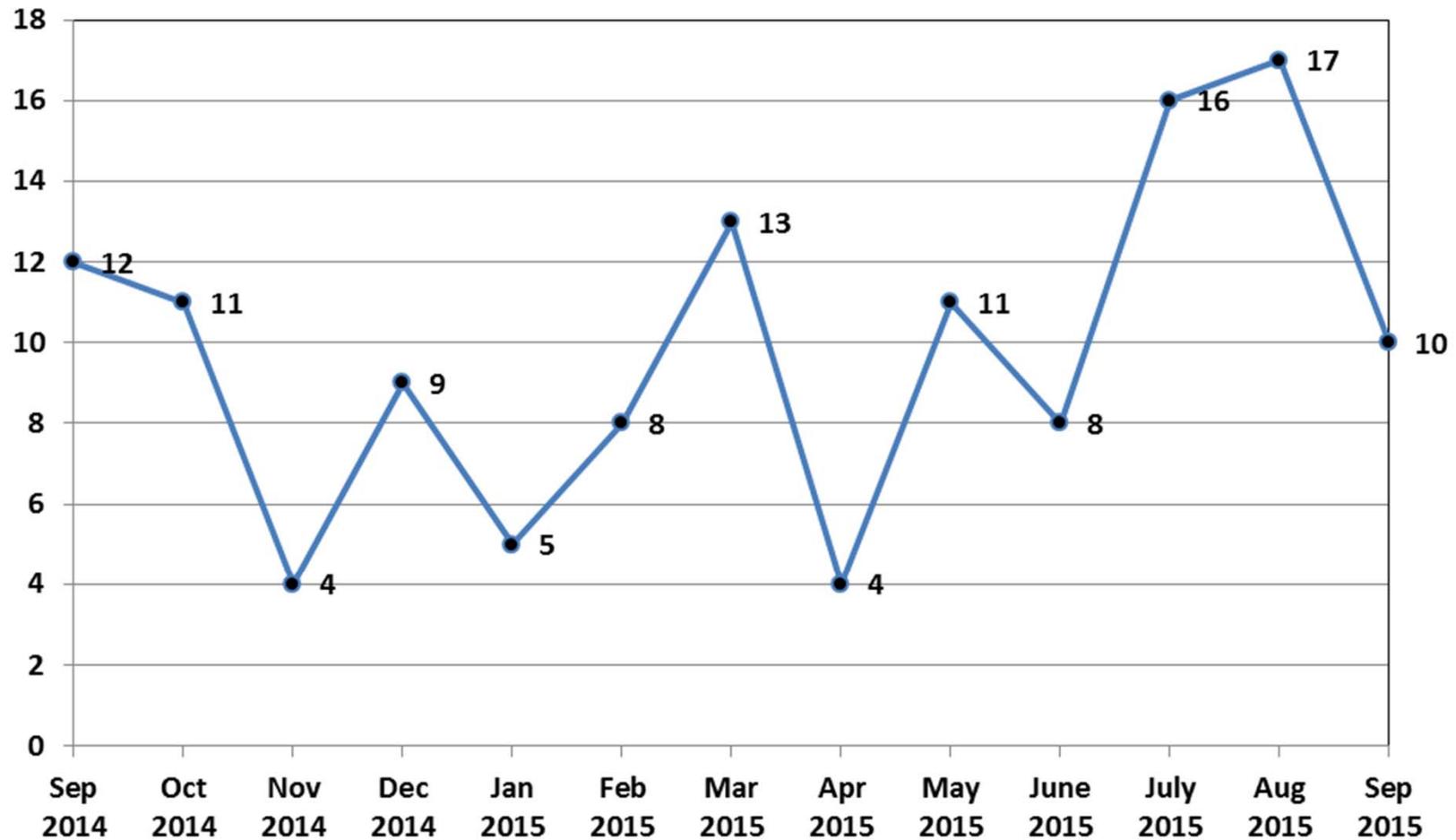
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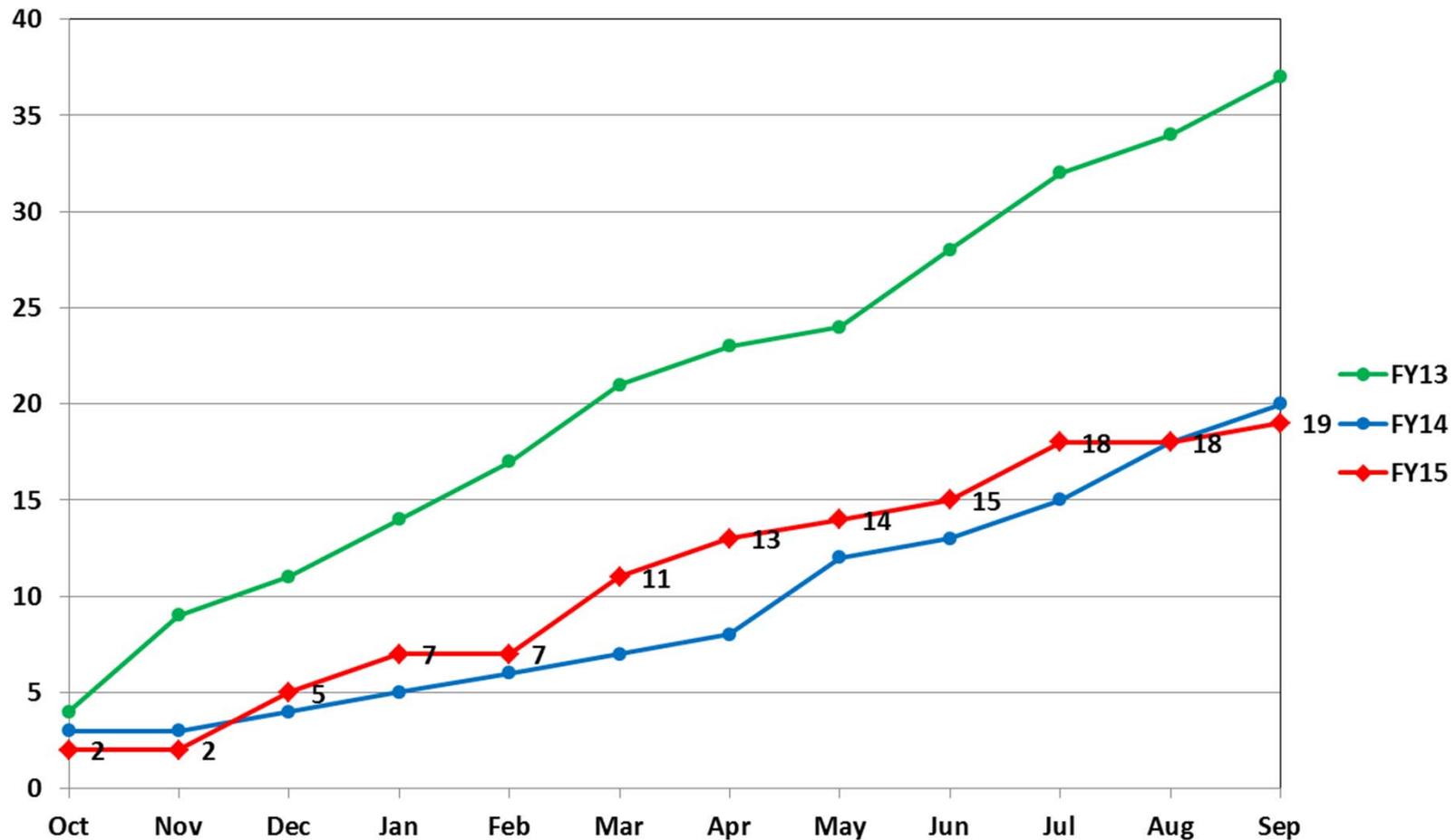
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Cumulative Accident Count: FY13 - 15



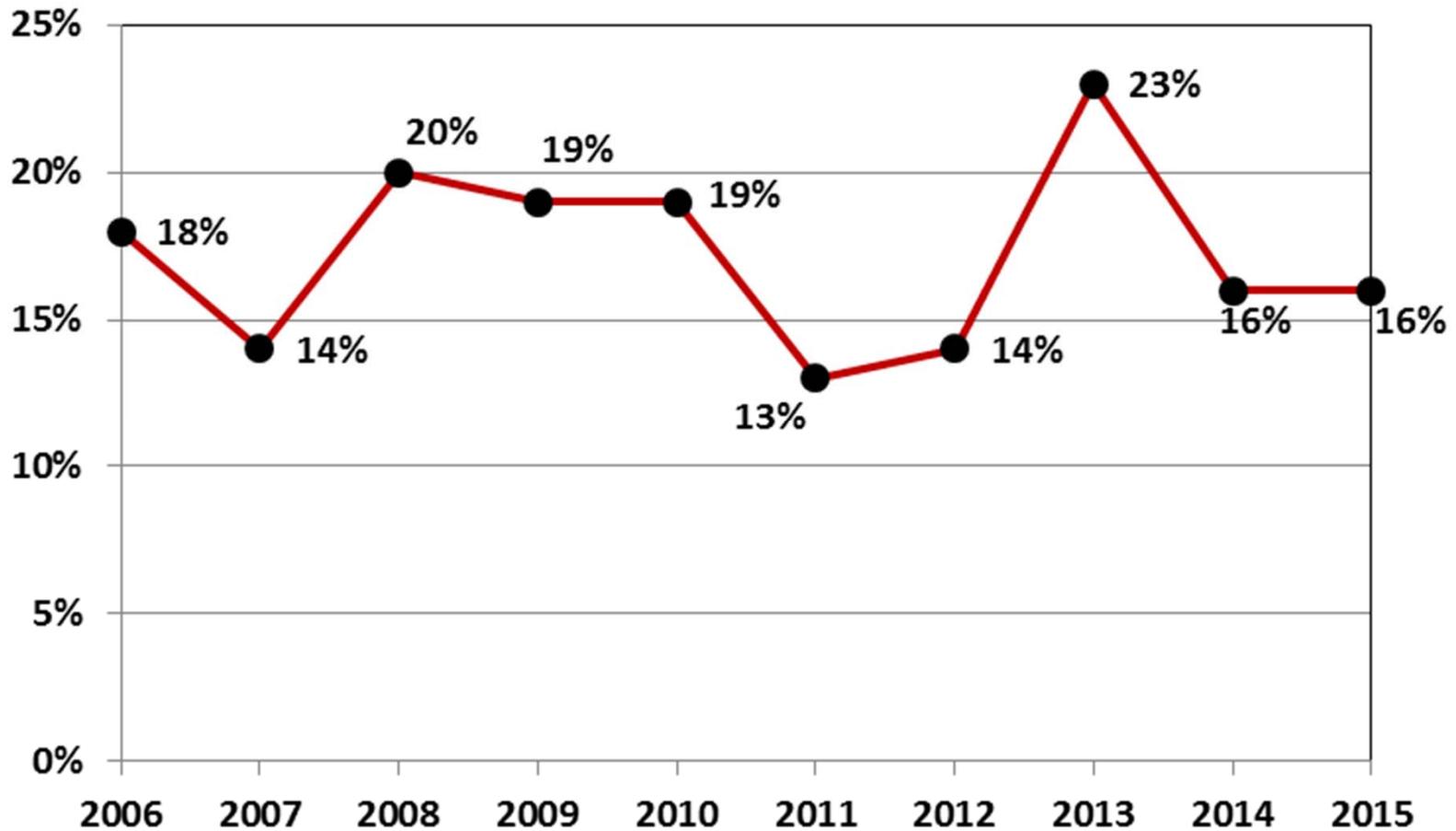
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft 13 Month Rolling Accident Count



U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Cumulative Fatal Accident Count: FY13 - 15



% of Rotorcraft Accidents with a Fatality



FY 15 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 9-3-15
 - MDHI 369HS, N9068F, Manra Island, Kiribati, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Aerial observation flight for fish spotting in the Pacific Ocean
 - Impacted water/rolled over [NTSB: WPR15LA257](#)

- 7-3-15
 - Airbus Helicopter AS350B3, N390LG, Frisco, CO, Part 135, 1 Fatal
 - Public relations flight departing from Summit Medical Center
 - Began to spin during takeoff, impacted parking lot and parked RV
 - Post crash fire following impact [NTSB: CEN15FA290](#)

- 7-1-15
 - Sikorsky 269C, N9490F, Asotin, WA, Part 91, 2 Fatal
 - Personal use flight originating from Lewiston
 - Collided with power lines while flying in a canyon
 - Post crash fire following impact [NTSB: WPR15FA204](#)

- 7-1-15
 - Sikorsky 269C, N2096W, Newburg, OR, Part 91, 2 Fatal
 - Night instructional/training flight
 - Autorotated and impacted terrain following airport departure
 - Post crash fire following impact [NTSB: WPR15FA205](#)

FY 15 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 6-20-15 – Scott’s Bell 47G-5, N4427F, Salinas, CA, Part 137, 1 Fatal
 - Aerial application flight had refilled fertilizer tank for last spray run of morning
 - Departed staging area into fog/reduced visibility and did not return
 - Ground crew drove to field and found crash wreckage [NTSB: WPR15LA193](#)

- 5-27-15 – Hiller UH-12E, N138HA, Wasco, CA, Part 137, 1 Fatal
 - Aerial Application flight; a/c departed refueling area to empty hopper
 - Crashed for unknown reasons shortly after takeoff [NTSB: WPR15LA168](#)

- 4-27-15 – Airbus Helicopter BK117C-2, N392TC, Austin, TX, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Public Aircraft, hoist rescue operation, rescuer (crewmember) fell from hoist
 - ASW-112 assisted with investigation [NTSB: CEN15FA210](#)

- 4-6-15 – MDHI 369D, N555JC, Florence, AL, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Crashed into Tennessee River, low ceiling and fog [NTSB: ERA15FA178](#)

FY 15 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 3-30-15 – Bell 206L-1, N50KH, Saucier, MS, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Public Aircraft, U.S. Forestry Service, conducting controlled burning
 - Crashed under unknown circumstances [NTSB: ERA15FA173](#)

- 3-22-15 – Robinson R-44, N30242, Orlando, Part 91, 3 Fatal
 - Personal/private, departed from ORL, then notified tower they needed to return
 - Crashed under unknown circumstances into a house [NTSB: ERA15FA164](#)

- 3-12-15 – Airbus Helicopters AS350B2, N919EM, Eufala, OK, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Night Helicopter Air Ambulance positioning flight to base after patient drop off
 - Low ceiling/visibility, crashed into rising terrain [NTSB: CEN15FA171](#)

- 3-6-15 – Airbus Helicopters EC-130B4, N356AM, St. Louis, MO, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Helicopter Air Ambulance, positioning to pick up crew at hospital heliport
 - Loss of control, struck side of building, post-crash fire [NTSB: CEN15FA164](#)

FY 15 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

- 1-25-15 – Enstrom 280FX, N86235, Erie, CO, Part 91, 2 Fatal
 - Instructional/training, main rotor blade departed during approach
 - Impact adjacent to runway, post-crash fire
 - ASW-112 assisted with investigation [NTSB: CEN15FA126](#)

- 1-10-15 – Robinson R-22, N348VH, Cantano, Puerto Rico, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Instructional/training – Solo, impacted ½ mile prior to runway
 - Crashed in San Juan Bay, a/c submerged [NTSB: ERA15FA096](#)

- 12-31-14 – Bell 206L-4, N57AW, Benson, AZ, Part 91, 2 Fatal
 - Business, VFR positioning flight at dusk
 - Low clouds and fog in area at time of accident [NTSB: WPR15FA072](#)

FY 15 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

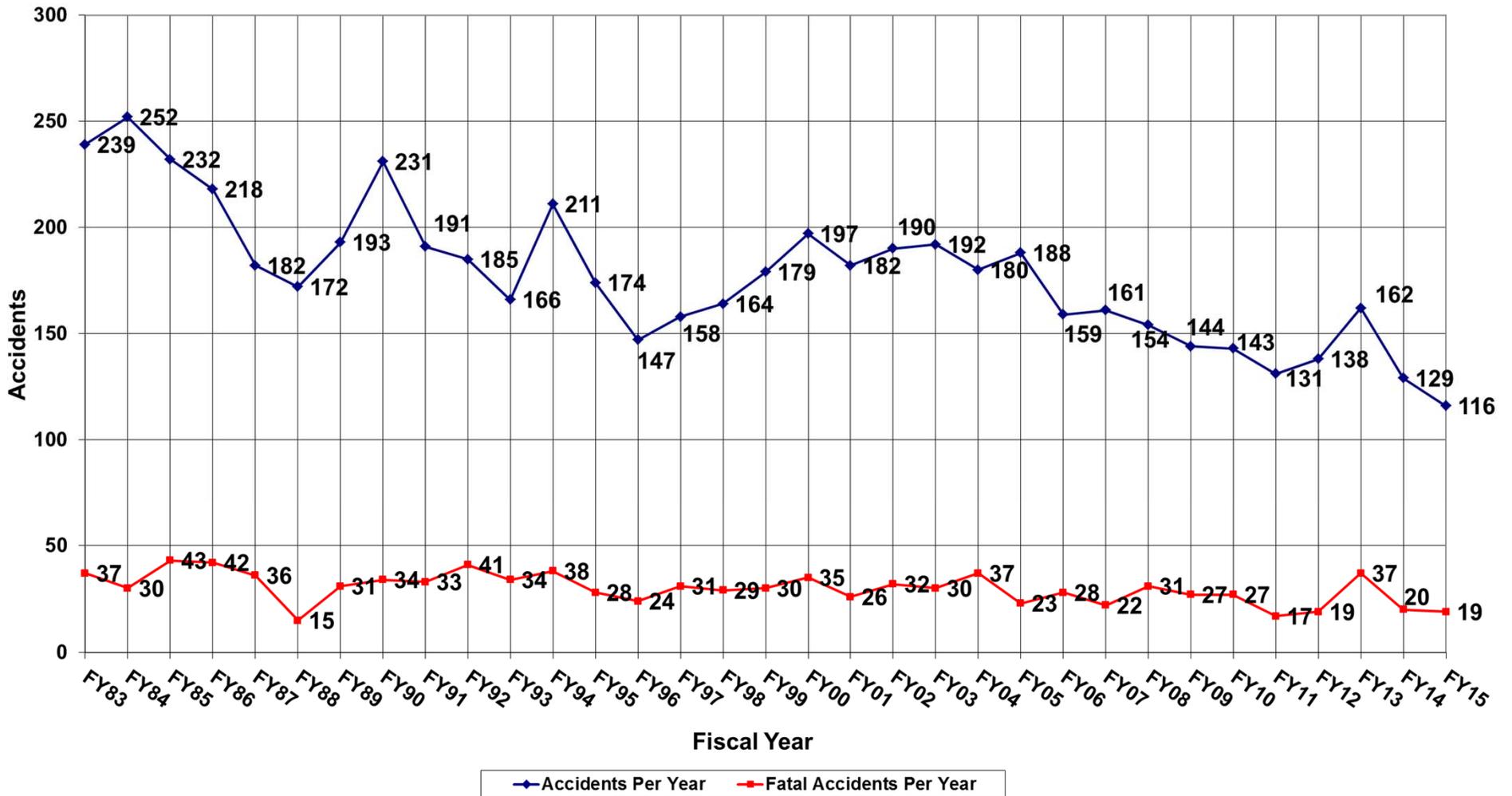
- 12-29-14 – Robinson R-22, N771MM, Lake Worth, FL, Part 91, 1 Fatal
 - Instructional/training flight, simulated engine failure
 - Crashed in grass near Palm Beach County Park Airport [NTSB: ERA15FA08](#)

- 12-2-14 – Robinson R-44, N3234U, Bountiful, UT, Part 91, 2 Fatal
 - Post maintenance check flight for track and balance of main rotor blades
 - Witnesses report in-flight break up followed by impact [NTSB: WPR15FA051](#)

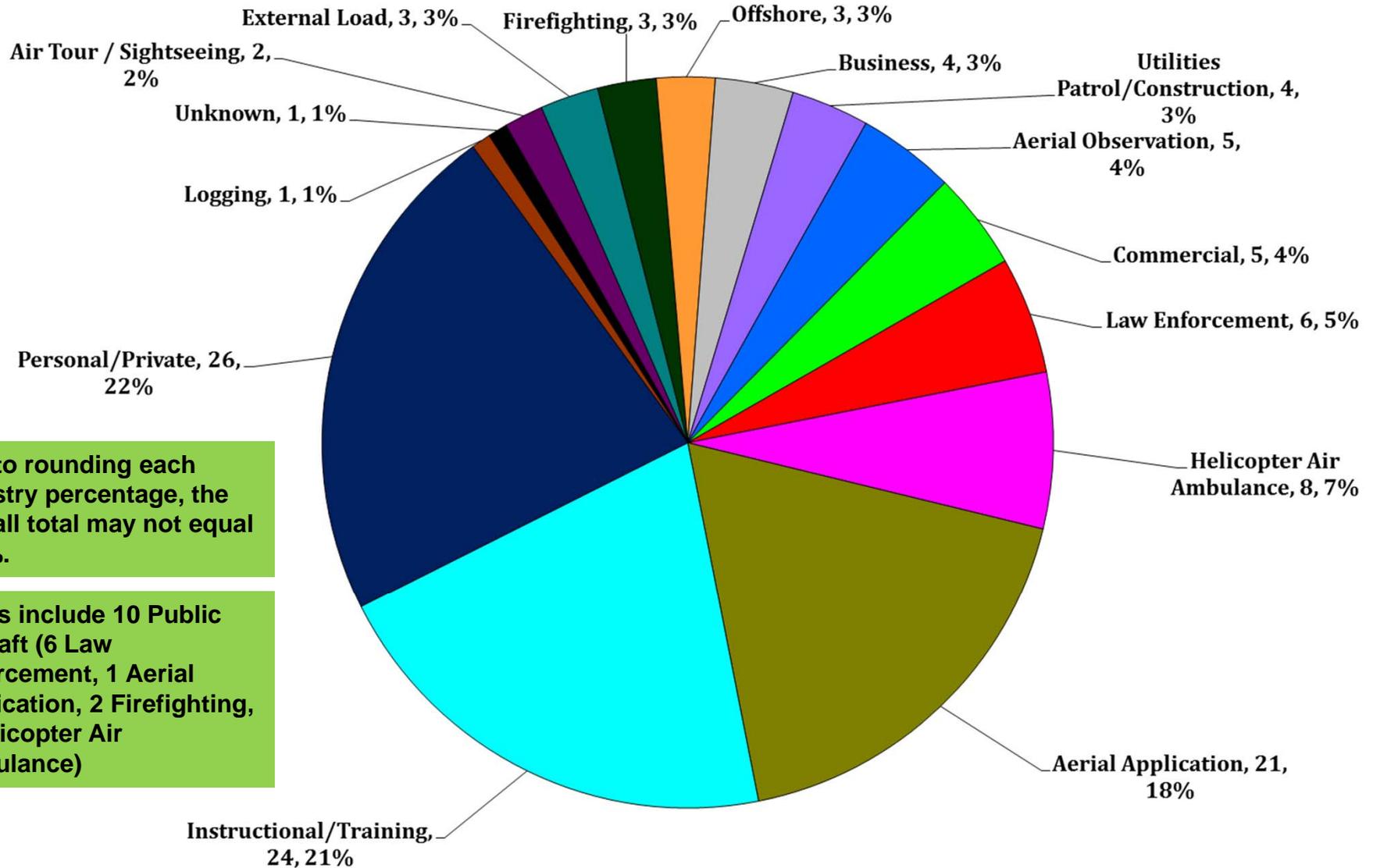
- 10-23-14 – Robinson R-44, N7518Q, Frederick, MD, Part 91, 3 Fatal
 - Personal/Private flight near Frederick Municipal Airport
 - Collided with an SR22 on approach to Runway 30 [NTSB: ERA15FA025B](#)

- 10-4-14 – Bell 206L-1, N335AE, Wichita Falls, TX, Part 135, 3 Fatal
 - Night Helicopter Air Ambulance flight, transporting patient
 - Crashed during approach to helipad at destination after uncommanded right yaw
 - Post crash fire following impact
 - ASW-112 assisted with investigation [NTSB: CEN15FA003](#)

U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Accidents FY83 - FY15



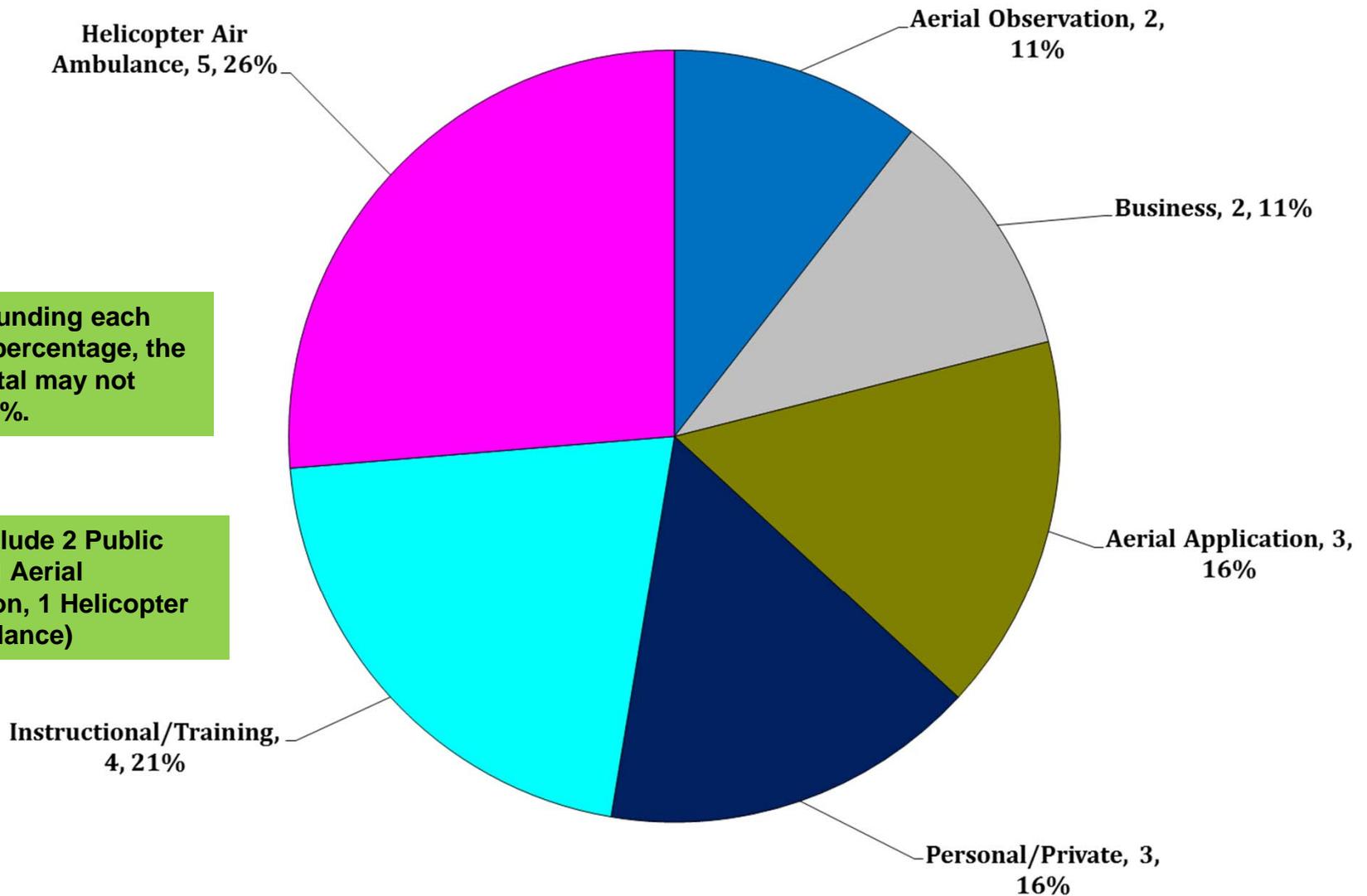
FY 15 – Total Accidents by Industry



Due to rounding each Industry percentage, the overall total may not equal 100%.

Totals include 10 Public Aircraft (6 Law Enforcement, 1 Aerial Application, 2 Firefighting, 1 Helicopter Air Ambulance)

FY 15 – Total FATAL Accidents by Industry



Due to rounding each Industry percentage, the overall total may not equal 100%.

Totals include 2 Public Aircraft (1 Aerial Application, 1 Helicopter Air Ambulance)



FY 15 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

MFR	Model	Registered U.S. Fleet Size	Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet	Number of FY15 U.S. Registered Accidents	Percentage of Total FY15 U.S. Registered Accidents
Airbus Helicopters	AS350	837	8%	10	9%
	BK117	174	2%	1	1%
	BO105	73	1%		
	EC120	94	1%		
	EC130	186	2%	2	2%
	EC135	260	2%		

Only models that comprise at least 1% of U.S. registered rotorcraft are listed unless an accident has occurred.

*Fleet size based on analysis of rotorcraft on FAA registry as of Feb 2015

FY 15 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

MFR	Model	Registered U.S. Fleet Size	Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet	Number of FY15 U.S. Registered Accidents	Percentage of Total FY15 U.S. Registered Accidents
Bell	205	38	< 1%		
	206 Jet Ranger	1,024	9%	10	9%
	206 Long Ranger	553	5%	7	6%
	212	61	1%		
	407	639	6%	3	3%
	412	95	1%	1	1%
	429	55	< 1%	1	1%
	430	33	< 1%	1	1%

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Robinson	R-22	1,024	9%	15	13%
	R-44	1,447	13%	20	17%
	R-66	149	1%	2	2%

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Sikorsky	(Schweizer) 269/300/TH-55	642	6%	12	10%
	S-61	59	1%	1	1%
	S-76	224	2%		
	S-92	80	1%		

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Agusta	A109	142	1%		
	A119	78	1%	1	1%
	AW139	106	1%		
Brantly	B-2	83	1%		
Continental Copters	MK5A	16	< 1%	1	1%
Enstrom	280	94	1%	2	2%
	480	80	1%		
	F28	182	2%	2	2%
Hiller	UH-12/H-23	296	3%	3	3%
MDHI	369	578	5%	6	5%
	900	23	< 1%	1	1%
Restricted Category (all TCs)	HH-1/TH-1/UH-1	250	2%	5	4%
	OH-58	110	1%		
Scott's Bell	47	645	6%	9	8%

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