



AERIAL OPERATIONS: STAYING SAFE & HEALTHY





INTRODUCTION

OSPRI staff and contractors use helicopters for efficient access and operational activity on a daily basis. As in other large-scale rural servicing organisations, helicopters bring time and cost efficiencies for many operations, including wildlife surveys in remote terrain, and the aerial distribution of possum control baits.

Working around helicopters involves a number of serious but very manageable risks, and every aspect of helicopter operation has been thoroughly analysed and assessed to ensure the safety of pilots, passengers and ancillary service providers.

This brochure demonstrates some of the serious risks of working around helicopters, and offers guidance on safe conduct and practice when helicopters are central to an operation.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

An aerial 1080 operation involves several serious health and safety risks. More than one may be present at the same time.

The law requires you to:

1. comply with any reasonable health and safety instruction; including this brochure or any other safety instruction from our staff or contractors.¹
2. stay away from the operational area, unless you are lawfully assisting with the operation.²

¹ *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, ss44-46.*

² *EPA additional controls for the use of 1080 cereal pellets, made pursuant to s77A Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.*

THE AERIAL SITE

CONSENTED AREA

Extent of aerial treatment

Public notification

No dogs

OPERATIONAL AREA

Public excluded

Control point location

High-viz required

LOADING ZONE

Restricted area

Many dangerous activities

Helmet required

Overalls

INNER ZONE

Closed area

Special overalls

Masks

Gloves

THE MOST SERIOUS HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS





AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Helicopters may come and go from the operational area at any time during the operation. They may land or just hover. They may fly overhead.

- Moving rotors are very hard to see

Approach an aircraft only with permission and a positive signal from the pilot.

- Rotorwash can raise dust and make it hard to see

If you cannot see due to rotor wash, stay where you are and crouch down.

- Overhead hazards - rotten branches, bucket, falling baits

Flight paths move due to shifts in wind and other factors. If you find yourself in a flight path, you should move.

- Highly flammable substances

Non-essential personnel and visitors stay well clear of the operational and loading zones. No smoking in loading zone.

- Baits can be ejected from the bucket at very high velocity

Stay well clear of the operational and loading areas.

Activities are deliberately segregated to reduce risk. The line of segregation may not be physically marked, as doing so could present a danger to aircraft or damage the environment.

Remain in the place designated for you, and follow all safety instructions.



VEHICLE OPERATIONS

- Heavy transport vehicles manoeuvring in a constricted space

Stay well clear of the truck park.

- Congestion at entrance may affect other traffic

Keep the site access clear, do not obstruct or distract traffic.

- Overhead hazards: cranes / loaders

Never, ever walk under a suspended load.

- Long hot days can impair alertness

Get plenty of rest.

Take breaks.

Stay hydrated.

Zero tolerance for impairment from drugs and alcohol – testing may be required for anyone working onsite.

Remain in the place designated for you, and follow all safety instructions.



REMOTE LOCATIONS

Most of our aerial operations are conducted at remote and isolated sites.

- Access for emergency services may be difficult.

Park vehicles facing the exit, allow room for emergency access.

- A minor incident might rapidly become more serious if it's not attended to quickly.

First aid kits and fire extinguishers are available in vehicles and at the control point.

- It can be hard to get communications from these locations

Emergency communication systems are available at the control point and in aircraft.

Make sure you know where to go and what to do in an emergency; if you don't, ask.





OTHER PEOPLE AT WORK

There are many different organisations involved in various types of work that often happen simultaneously. This requires careful coordination.

- One party's activity could cause injury to another party

A briefing is provided to the operational staff before work commences.

Conflicting activities are segregated to reduce risk.

Everyone at work in the operating zone must wear a high visibility garment.

If you are unsure about anything, please ask questions.

Remain in the place designated for you, and follow all safety instructions.



WORKING OUTSIDE

The outdoor environment presents a number of short- and long-term health risks.

- The weather can change and you can quickly get too cold or too hot

Ensure you have enough clothing for all weathers.

- Exposure to UV from the sun, which can cause skin cancer

Sunscreen for workers is available at the control point.

- Rotor wash and wind can raise natural silica dust, which can damage your lungs. Dust could also contain other contaminants bad for your health.

Stay upwind of the loading zone.

P2 dust masks inside loading zone.

If the wind shifts, the operational layout and flight paths will change.

Remain in the place designated for you, and follow all safety instructions.





HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) is used on aerial operations, in green baits that are at least 99.8% cereal and other non-toxic ingredients. A single bait pellet does not contain enough 1080 to make a person sick, but should be avoided.

- 1080 is poisonous and it is illegal to handle it without a special licence

Do not touch the baits, or their containers or bags.

- 1080 pellets are eco-toxic if spilled in large amounts

Contain any spill if you are able and equipped to do so, and notify the person in charge immediately.

- 1080 pellets, residue or fragments are deadly to dogs

Carefully check your clothing and equipment before leaving site.

Wash down the loading zone and vehicle (especially tyres) with water.

Remain in the place designated for you, and follow all safety instructions.



CONFLICT & CONFRONTATION

Some people do not agree with the aerial use of 1080. We respect everyone's right to hold different views, but we are undertaking a lawful activity that benefits all New Zealanders.

- We expect appropriate and safe behaviour from everyone

Be courteous, and respect the rights and dignity of other persons.

- Opponents sometimes protest the operation by demonstrating nearby

Members of the public are excluded from the operational area for safety reasons.

Security personnel who are trained to manage conflict will enforce the exclusion.

- Very rarely, opposition results in confrontation or attempts to sabotage an operation

Police will be called in the event of confrontation with our workers, unauthorised entry, or trespass.

Remain in the place designated for you, and follow all safety instructions.





REMEMBER

Health and safety is everyone's responsibility. Clear communication and personal attention to detail and instruction are important for maintaining the highest safety standards in hazardous situations.

NEED HELP?

For more information visit ospri.co.nz or phone OSPRI on

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