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SAFETY NOTICE SN022

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PREVENTION OF CARBURETOR ICING

Safari kits include both a carburetor temperature sensor and gauge. In March 2017 we issued a Maintenance Notice suggesting that a functionality test of the sensor be included in the Pre-Flight Inspection.

We have heard from a Safari pilot that the system of heating the carburetor used on some Safaris may not be producing adequate heat to prevent ice in the carburetor even if in working order. Please evaluate the method in use on your helicopter, and test to be sure that sufficient heat is being produced to prevent icing.

If icing occurs, there will be a drastic loss of power as the engine is starved for fuel. If an appropriate landing site is not immediately available, this can be catastrophic.