

R44 SAFETY ALERT

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AVOID FLYING OUT OF TRIM

RHC has received two R44 tail rotor blades with fatigue cracks at the leading edge in the most inboard white paint stripe (see figure below). The cracked blades were from police helicopters that frequently performed orbits with a nose-left yaw (using additional left pedal input). Using left pedal to force the helicopter to fly out of trim can cause high fatigue stresses in the blades.

**TO PREVENT A CATASTROPHIC TAIL ROTOR BLADE FAILURE,
AVOID FLYING OUT OF TRIM.**

During each preflight, inspect leading edges of tail rotor blades for cracks. Wipe blades clean if necessary to make sure potential cracks are visible.

