



INSARAG Guidelines 2026

Appendix 5.9: Types of Helicopters Typically Used During Disaster Operations

Endorsed and approved by the INSARAG Steering Group on 10 March 2026

Types of Helicopters Typically Used During Disaster Operations

Helicopter type	Fuel type	Cruising speed (knots)	Typical allowable payload for hovering in ground effect (kg/lb)*	Typical allowable payload for hovering out of ground effect (kg/lb)†	Number of passenger seats
Aerospatiale SA 315B Lama	Jet	80	420/925	420/925	4
Aerospatiale SA-316B Allouette III	Jet	80	526/1,160	479/1,055	6
Aerospatiale SA 318C Allouette II	Jet	95	420/926	256/564	4
Aerospatiale AS-332L Super Puma	Jet	120	2,177/4,800	1,769/3,900	26
Bell 204B	Jet	120	599/1,20	417/920	11
Bell 206B-3 Jet Ranger	Jet	97	429/945	324/715	4
Bell 206L Long Ranger	Jet	110	522/1150	431/950	6
Bell 412 Huey	Jet	110	862/1900	862/1,900	13
Bell G-47	Aviation Gas	66	272/600	227/500	1
Bell 47 Soloy	Jet	75	354/780	318/700	2
Boeing H 46 Chinook	Jet				
Boeing H 47 Chinook	Jet	130	12,210/26,918	12,210/26,918	33
Eurocopter (MBB) BO105 CB	Jet	110	635/1,400	445/980	4
Eurocopter BK-117A-4	Jet	120	599/1,320	417/920	11
MI-8	Jet	110	3,000/6,6139	3,000/6,6139	20–30
MI-17					
Sikorsky S-58T	Jet	90	1,486/3,275	1,168/2,575	12—18
Sikorsky S-61N	Jet	120	2,005/4,420	2,005/4,420	n/a
Sikorsky S-64 Skycrane	Jet	80	7,439/16,400	7,439/16,400	n/a
Sikorsky S-70 (UH-60) Black Hawk	Jet	145	2,404/5,300	1,814/4,000	14–17