



Mechanics, when heading topside to do Black Hawk rotor head maintenance, don't grab a pitot tube because it's convenient.

Get in the habit of grabbing your bird's handholds if you're going topside. Or grab a maintenance stand instead. That always does the trick.

The pitot tubes are not strong enough for handholds. They are thin sheet metal and fiberglass, and grabbing them can break the tube and its internal lines at the base. If broken, they cannot monitor air speed. This is a major problem with Black Hawks that have external stores support system (ESSS) installed.

Breaking pitot tubes means aircraft down-time and work for the sheet metal and airframe shops.

So hands off the tubes, or you'll hear snap, crackle and pop and maybe some yelling from the repairers who have to drill out the rivets and fix the damage.

