

DESERT CREATURES STRIKE!



Pilots and mechanics have discovered that desert critters can find any hole to live and nest.

If engine startup on your Chinook sounds hung or like it's choking on sand, the culprit could just be a desert bug in the engine hydro-mechanical unit (HMU) vent hole. Believe it!

You know there's a problem because as soon as you crank engine 1 or 2, the power turbine inlet temperature (PTIT) rises and the N1 gauge doesn't increase past 40 percent.

Have a mechanic inspect the HMU's atmospheric vent hole. It could have a bug in the hole.

Bugs make the hole a nest and plug up the vent. This prevents engine startup because the atmospheric vent helps the engines to start properly—as long as the vent hole is clear.

Clear up engine startup problems by clearing out the vent hole with a pipe cleaner, NSN 9920-00-292-9946. This can be done on the aircraft without removing the HMU.

