Rotor Wash

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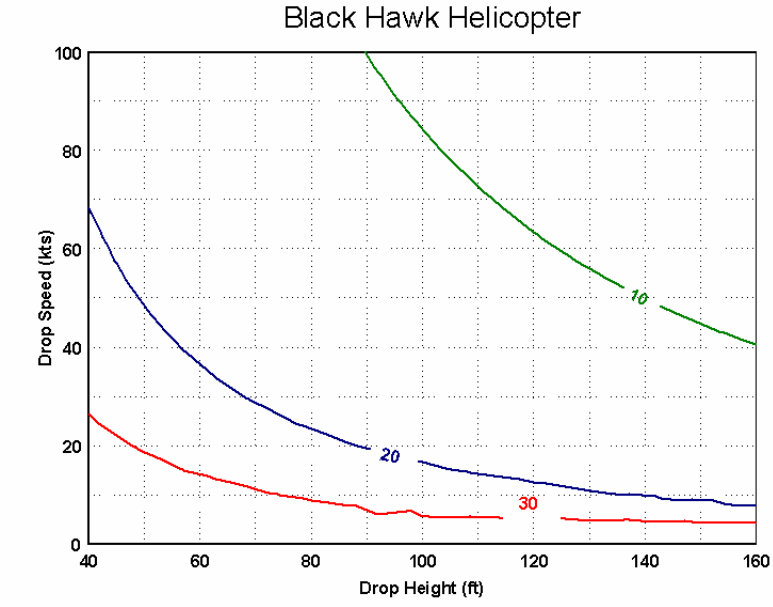
Helicopters flying at low levels can create a vertical down wash of air (rotor wash) that becomes a surface wind which may spread fire along the ground. The picture below shows this rotor wash as a UH 60 Black Hawk helicopter flies low near a fill-tank.

The graph below shows the expected rotor wash from the Black Hawk helicopter. The vertical axis represents drop height in feet and the horizontal axis drop speed in knots. The red curve, labeled 30, represents the combination of height and speed which will most likely produce a 30 mph rotor wash effect. If the Black Hawk were hovering, it would have to be well over 160 feet to achieve a rotor wash less than 30 mph.



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