

DISASTER FACTS

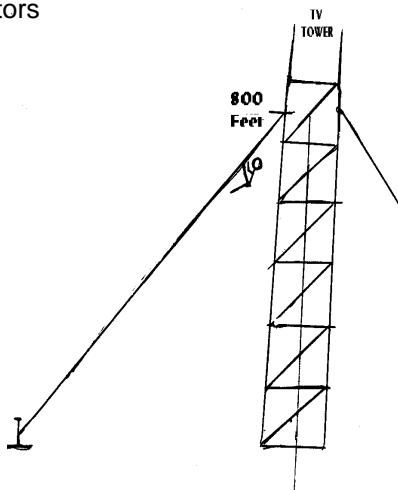
ACCIDENT REPORT

U.S. Department of Labor • Occupational Safety and Health Administration • Kansas City Region VII No. 22



ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Fall
Weather Conditions: Clear - 35 degrees
Type of Company: Tower Erectors
Size of Work Crew: 6
Union or Non-Union: Non-union
Worksite Inspections Conducted: Yes
Designated Competent Person on Site: Yes
Employer Safety and Health Program: Yes
Training and Education for Employees: Yes
Craft of Deceased Employee: Tower Erector/Ironworker
Age/Sex: 21/Male
Time on the Job: 2 months
Time at the Task: 2 hours



SOURCES OF HELP

◆ OSHA standards, regulations, documents and technical information are available on the Internet World Wide Web at <http://www.OSHA.gov/>. That information also is on CD-ROM, which may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250, Order No. 729-13-00000-5; cost \$79 annually; \$28 quarterly.

◆ For hard copies of OSHA Construction Standards [29 CFR Part 1926], which include all OSHA job safety and health rules and regulations covering construction, contact Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250, order number 869-022-00114-1, \$33.

◆ OSHA-funded free consultation services listed in telephone directories under U.S. Labor Department or under the state government section where states administer their own OSHA programs.

◆ OSHA Safety and Health Training Guidelines for Construction, Volume III (Available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; phone (703)487-4650; Order No. PB-239-312/AS, \$25 to help construction employers establish a training program.

◆ Courses in construction safety are offered by the OSHA Training Institute, 1555 Times Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018, (847) 297-4810, and the Metropolitan Community Colleges Business & Technology Center, 6899 Executive Drive, Kansas City, MO 64120, (816) 482-5210.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

The employee was attaching dampners (weights approximately ten feet from the tower on the guy wire) to the guy wires. Employee would attach a body belt with a seat attachment to the guy wire with pelican hooks. Next he would attach a lanyard from the tower to the body belt. Employee would then slide down the guy wire to the specified length and attach the dampner. This was done at the 1000 foot guy wire, but on the 800 foot wire the employee did not properly attach the belt to the lanyard and when the specified length was reached, the lanyard fell back to the tower as employee lowered himself down the wire. The employee was able to hold his position for a few minutes while rescue was attempted, but then he lost his grip and slid down the entire length to the ground.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide tower length safety lines and provide employees with rope grabs and harnesses for additional fall protection.
2. Include construction methods that eliminate the need for climbing onto the guy wire.

3. Train employees in proper fall protection procedures.

Note: This case described was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from a fall and/or electrocution. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of the legal aspects of the incident case. Your company or organization is eligible to receive one free copy of this leaflet which you may duplicate and share with your co-workers. To be placed on the distribution list, send your name, title and address to: U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA, 1100 Main, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, Attn. TECFAP, or e-mail to dearing-cynthia@dol.gov.