

## Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Falls during Construction and Maintenance of Telecommunication Towers

### WARNING!

**Workers involved in construction and maintenance of telecommunication towers are at high risk of fatal falls.**

**WORKERS** should take the following steps to protect themselves from falls during tower construction and maintenance:

- Use 100% fall protection when working on towers at heights above 25 feet.
- Participate in all training programs offered by your employer.
- Follow safe work practices identified by worker training programs.
- Use OSHA-required personal protective equipment and make sure you are trained in its proper use.
- Inspect equipment daily and report any damage or deficiencies to your supervisor immediately.

**EMPLOYERS** should take the following steps to reduce the risk of worker injuries and deaths from falls during tower construction and maintenance:

- Comply with OSHA Compliance Directive 2-1.29.
- Ensure that hoisting equipment used to lift workers is designed to prevent uncontrolled descent and is properly rated for the intended use.
- Ensure that hoist operators are properly trained.

- Ensure that workers use 100% fall protection when working on towers at heights above 25 feet.
- Provide workers with a 100% fall-protection system compatible with tower components and the tasks to be performed.
- Ensure that gin poles are installed and used according to the specifications of the manufacturer or a registered professional engineer.
- Ensure that tower erectors are adequately trained in proper climbing techniques, including sustaining three-point contact.
- Provide workers with OSHA-required personal protective equipment and training in its proper use.
- Ensure that workers inspect their equipment daily to identify any damage or deficiencies.
- Provide workers with an adequate work-positioning device system. Connectors on positioning systems must be compatible with the tower components to which they are attached.
- Supplement worker training on safe work practices with discussions of FACE case reports.
- Know and comply with child labor laws that prohibit hazardous work by workers under age 18.

For additional information, see ***NIOSH Alert: Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Falls during Construction and Maintenance of Telecommunication Towers*** [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2001-156]. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

NIOSH—Publications Dissemination  
4676 Columbia Parkway  
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998

Telephone: 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674)  
Fax: 513-533-8573  
E-mail: [pubstaff@cdc.gov](mailto:pubstaff@cdc.gov)

or visit the NIOSH Web site at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh)

Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

