



# National Association of Tower Erectors

## Tower Owner Safety Checklist

Members of the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE) are bound by local, state, and federal regulations, to provide a safe work environment for all their employees. The members of NATE strongly believe in promoting safety throughout the industry.

A pro-active approach to safety and health in the tower industry will result in fewer injuries and fatalities. Unsafe towers that are out of compliance pose a significant health and safety risk to employees. Below is a list of guidelines that should be implemented before tower climbers gain access to owner structures.

NATE strongly encourages tower owner/operators to voluntarily adhere to the following guidelines which will greatly enhance the safety of tower workers:

### Tower Safety Guidelines:

- The owner will determine whether tower service companies have a written safety and health program before hiring them to perform work on the tower. OSHA required training should be documented and available for review.
- Towers will have climbing safety features that meet OSHA regulations, including the following:
  - Unobstructed climbing ladder that is secure and in good repair.
  - Properly installed, maintained and functioning safety climb system.
- Power to RF emitters (antennas) must be lowered to a safe level or turned off completely, before climbers are allowed to access the structure. The owner must ensure that the power cannot be re-energized or increased from a remote location, until the work on the tower is completed.
  - The owner of the tower must have a proper Lockout/Tagout program, which is implemented in conjunction with the tower service company and which is implemented before climbers are allowed access to the structure.
- Towers will be maintained in good repair and pose no known safety hazards before service personnel are allowed to access towers. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Guy cable tensions to be kept within manufacturer recommendations.
  - Tower plumb to be maintained within current TIA/EIA 222 standards.
  - No broken, damaged, or deformed cross members or guy cables.
  - No corrosion that affects the structural integrity of members above or below ground.
  - No structural deterioration to concrete bases and/or anchorages which affects structural integrity.
- Climbers will not be allowed to access towers in adverse weather conditions, including high winds, lightning, rain, or when ice is present.
- Tower owners will coordinate with tenants and other users on the tower to ensure their equipment is free from known safety hazards, including RF emissions, before allowing climbers to access the tower.

NATE believes that by adhering to these basic tower safety guidelines, tower climbers can more safely and effectively access the tower to perform their requested tasks, thereby preventing injuries and limiting liability for the owners and tower service companies.