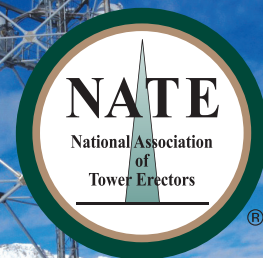


Planning Advisory Notice



A Safe Job Site is No Accident



Tower construction and maintenance is a serious job that requires an array of tools and equipment. Workers' lives are on the line. Ensuring their safety starts long before the job begins. An accident-free record is no accident. The key to keeping your staff safe and productive at height is proper planning.

Safe job sites are profitable ones as well. While purchasing proper equipment might seem like a

large capital expense, one serious on-the-job injury could burden your business with stiff fines, increased insurance premiums, and lawsuits, not to mention the injury or death of an employee. An investment in your staff's safety will pay unlimited dividends. Safety starts from the top down. However, no amount of safety equipment will keep your staff protected without management's full support and dedication to the health and safety of their employees.

To keep employers accountable, OSHA, a completely self-funded agency, enforces by law that employers provide PPE to all workers exposed to a potential hazard, and more specific to our industry, fall protection to all who work six feet or more above the ground. All fall protection products used by tower professionals fit into four functional categories: Harnesses, Fall Arrest/Restraint, Anchorage, and Rescue.

As our industry has grown, so have the number of manufacturers offering a wide assortment of solutions at different price points. Each piece of equipment functions as part of a complete fall protection plan.

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Beau Aero is the President and Founder of GME Supply Co, a subsidiary of GMES International. He began his career in the tower industry working at his family's manufacturing facility, GlenMartin. In 2005, after years of building experience with tower customers, he founded GME Supply. With over 18 years of on-the-job industry experience, Beau has a unique understanding of the equipment needs of tower erectors and maintenance companies. GME Supply Co has grown to become premier international outfitter of contractor equipment and supplies, keeping workers both safe and productive while on the job. Beau graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in marketing and advertising from the University of Missouri.



For example, if a worker wears a harness, but does not tie off, the harness is of no benefit. Therefore, developing a complete safety plan includes understanding all potential risks, and then selecting all equipment that will be used together as a system for employee safety.

While providing only the basics might be just enough to keep you from being fined, one critical element is that your staff actually uses the equipment you provide. Allowing your employees to be part of the equipment selection process will help ensure that the equipment is adopted and used. Remember, tower professionals will be at height for an extended amount of time, and they need equipment that will be both safe and comfortable. When your employees feel comfortable, they will be more productive.

To maintain their service life and performance, all PPE, ropes, and lifting gear should be inspected frequently. Visual inspection should be performed by the user before each use. Additionally, a log noting routine inspections by a competent person must be kept. Each manufacturer has different specifications, so be sure to consult the user manual for each piece of equipment to conform to the manufacturer's specifications for inspections. However, in general, if any of the conditions listed below are found, the equipment should be put out of service (destroyed) and replaced.

Harness Inspection

Inspect for frayed edges, broken fibers, pulled stitches, cuts or chemical damage. Check D-rings and D-ring

metal wear pads for distortion, cracks, breaks, and rough or sharp edges. Buckle tongues should be free of distortion in shape and motion. They should overlap the buckle frame and move freely back and forth in their socket. Inspect all quick connect buckles for functionality.

Lanyard Inspection

Inspect snap hooks closely for hook and eye distortion, cracks, corrosion, or pitted surfaces. The keeper or latch should seat into the nose without binding and should not be distorted or obstructed. Check for any cuts or breaks in webbing. Inspect for any worn, broken or cut fibers.

Heat

Check for excessive heat damage. Nylon becomes brittle, and has a shriveled brownish appearance. Fibers will break when flexed and should not be used above 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

Chemical

Change in color usually appears as a brownish smear or smudge. Transverse cracks appear when material is bent over tight, and this causes a loss of elasticity.

Ultraviolet Rays

Do not store any PPE in direct sunlight, as ultraviolet rays can reduce the strength of some material.

Molten Metal or Flame

Webbing and rope strands may be fused together by molten metal or flame. Watch for hard, shiny spots

Under OSHA law, all employers have a responsibility to provide a safe workplace.

Employer Obligations:

- *Perform a “hazard assessment” of the workplace to identify and control all hazards.*
- *Identify and provide appropriate PPE for employees.*
- *Train employees in the use and care of the PPE. Keep a training log.*
- *Maintain PPE, including replacing worn or damaged PPE.*
- *Periodically review, update and evaluate the effectiveness of the PPE program.*

Employee Obligations

- *Properly wear PPE.*
- *Attend training sessions on PPE.*
- *Inspect, care for, clean and maintain PPE.*
- *Inform a supervisor of the need to repair or replace PPE.*

or a hard and brittle feel. Webbing will not support combustion, nylon will.

Paint and Solvents

Paint will penetrate and dry, restricting movements of fibers. Drying agents and solvents in some paints will appear as chemical damage.

Cleaning of Equipment

Basic care for fall protection safety equipment will prolong the life of your equipment and contribute toward its performance. Proper storage and maintenance after each use is as important as cleaning the equipment of dirt, corrosives or contaminants. Choose a storage area that is clean, dry and free of exposure to fumes or corrosive elements.

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Personal protective equipment should **not** be used as a substitute for engineering, work practice, and/or administrative controls. Personal protective equipment should be used in conjunction with these controls to provide employee safety and health in the workplace. Personal protective equipment includes all clothing and other work accessories designed to create a barrier against workplace hazards. The basic element of any management program for PPE should be an in-depth evaluation of the equipment needed to protect against hazards in the workplace. Management dedicated to the safety and health

of employees should use that evaluation to set a standard operating procedure for personnel, then train employees on the protective limitations of PPE, and on its proper use and maintenance.

Using personal protective equipment requires hazard awareness and training on the part of the user. Employees must be aware that the equipment does not eliminate the hazard. If the equipment fails, exposure will occur. To reduce the possibility of failure, equipment must be properly fitted and maintained in a clean and serviceable condition. ■

Initial PAN advisory group members are:

Dave Anthony, President of Shenandoah Tower Service, Ltd.; John Erichsen, Principal EET PE, Chairman TIA Committee TR14; Scott Kisting, Vice President of MUTI/Sabre Industries Telecom Services; Stephanie Brewer, Compliance Coordinator MUTI/ Sabre Industries Telecom Services; and Dale Heath, Product Line Manager of CommScope.

THANK YOU!



The NATE Board of Directors, Committees and Administrative Staff extends their sincere appreciation to Dave Anthony of Shenandoah Tower Service, Ltd. for his dedicated service, enthusiasm and dedication to the Trade Show Committee the past 13 years.