Tower Owner
Safety Guidelines

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 proactive 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 and safety risk to employees. Below is a list of guidelines that should be implemented before tower technicians gain access to owner/operator structures.

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

Tower Safety Guidelines:

- The owner/operator will determine whether the tower service companies have a written safety and health program before hiring them to perform work on the tower. Required training should be documented and available for review. *(Refer to the NATE Checklist for Evaluating Qualified Contractors)*
- Towers will have climbing safety features that meet regulatory requirements including the following:
  - Unobstructed climbing ladder that is secure and in good repair; and
  - Properly installed, maintained and functioning safety climb system.
- Power to RF emitters (antennas) must be at a safe level before technicians are allowed to access the RF environment. The owner/operator must ensure that all technicians have proper training and RF monitors. The owner/operator must ensure that the power cannot be re-energized (lockout/tagout) until the work on the tower structure is completed.
- Structures will be maintained in good repair and identify known safety hazards before technicians are allowed to access structures. Verify:
  - Inspections have been performed accordingly per TIA Standard;
  - Tower plumb and tension to be maintained and kept within current engineered specifications and TIA/EIA 222 Standard;
  - No broken, damaged, or deformed cross-members or guy cables;
  - No corrosion that affects the structural integrity of members above or below ground; and
  - No structural deterioration to concrete bases and/or anchorages which affects structural integrity.
- The owner/operator shall be aware of adverse weather conditions including but not limited to high winds, lightning, rain, or when ice is present.

NATE believes that by adhering to these basic guidelines, technicians can more safely and effectively access the structure to perform their tasks, thereby preventing losses and ensuring safety.