



# FATALITY NARRATIVE

## Cellular Tower Crew Foreman Killed in Fall from Antenna Mast\*

**Industry:** Power & communication line & related structures construction

**Task:** Replacing cellular antennas on mast mounted on building roof

**Occupation:** Foreman

**Type of Incident:** Fall

**Release Date:** April 26, 2010

**Incident Date:** September 12, 2008

**Case No.:** 08WA04401

**SHARP Report No.:** 71-92-2010

On September 12, 2008, a cellular tower construction crew foreman was killed when he fell from a cellular tower mast to the roof 24 feet below. The 33-year-old victim was employed as a crew foreman by a company that erects and maintains cellular towers. He had three years experience in the industry and was supervising a crew of five workers to replace a series of antennas on a mast located on the roof of an elevator housing on top of a building. The victim and his crew began their shift at 10 pm. A previous crew that had done prep work for the job. The crew was working by lights from their head lamps. At about midnight, the victim and a coworker climbed onto the mast to begin work when the victim fell to the roof below. He was not wearing fall protection.



Incident scene shows where the victim fell from the cellular tower mast to the building roof.

### Requirements

- ! Develop a written fall prevention plan. See [WAC 296-155-24505](#)
- ! Identify potential fall hazards prior to each project and during daily walk-around. See [WAC 296-155-24505](#)
- ! Employers should ensure that tower erectors are adequately trained to identify fall hazards and the proper use of fall protection. See [WAC 296-155-24505](#)
- ! A competent person must train workers on fall protection basics, as well as the specific fall protection situations and equipment for their project. See [WAC 296-155-24510](#)

### Recommendations

- ✓ Employers need to make proper protective equipment a mandatory part of the job.
- ✓ Employers need to develop and promote policies that empower employees to report and correct unsafe and hazardous activities.
- ✓ Work on towers or at elevation should be restricted during low light, poor weather, or other hazardous conditions.

**State Wide Statistics:** This was number 46 out of 72 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2008, and was number 13 out of 18 construction-related fatalities.

*\*This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

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