

D TSASTER FACTS



U.S. Department of Labor ! Occupational Safety and Health Administration ! Kansas City Region VII No. 8

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type: Fall from height

Weather Conditions: Clear, Calm

Type of Company: Communication Tower Erection Contractor

Size of Work Crew: 4

Union or Non-Union: Non-Union

Worksite Inspections Conducted: No

Designated Competent Person on Site: Yes

Employer Safety and Health Program: Minimal

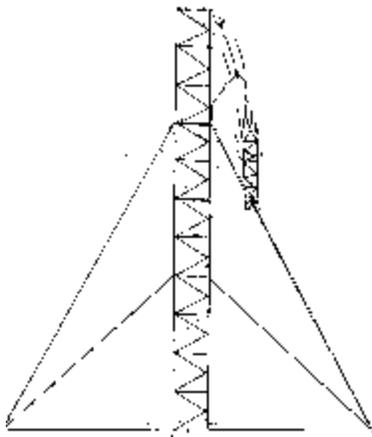
Training and Education for Employees: Minimal

Craft of Deceased Employee: Tower Erector

Age/Sex: 36 - M

Time on the Job: 1 day

Time at the Task: 7 hours



SOURCES OF HELP

g OSHA standards, regulations, documents and technical information are available on the Internet World Wide Web at <http://www.OSHA.gov/>. That information also is on CD-ROM, which may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250, Order No. 729-13-00000-5; cost \$79 annually; \$28 quarterly.

g For hard copies of OSHA Construction Standards [29 CFR Part 1926], which include all OSHA job safety and health rules and regulations covering construction, contact Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250, order number 869-022-00114-1, \$33.

g OSHA-funded free consultation services listed in telephone directories under U.S. Labor Department or under the state government section where states administer their own OSHA programs.

g OSHA Safety and Health Training Guidelines for Construction, Volume III (Available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; phone (703)487-4650; Order No. PB-239-312/AS, \$25 to help construction employers establish a training program.

g Courses in construction safety are offered by the OSHA Training Institute, 1555 Times Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018, (847) 297-4810, and Metropolitan Community Colleges Business Technology Center, 6899 Executive Drive, Kansas City, MO 64120, (816) 482-5210.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A three man crew was in the process of erecting a radio communication tower. The process being used was lifting section by section with the use of a gin pole system. The crew had completed the tower up to a height of 240'. At the time of accident, the gin pole was being lifted with the use of a sheave, attached to the top of the tower by a single wire rope sling. While the gin pole was being lifted to the top of the tower, the deceased was riding the gin pole and was attached to it near the bottom through the use of a body harness and lanyard. When the gin pole was lifted to a point near the top, the sling attaching the lifting sheave to the top of the tower failed, causing the sheave and gin pole to fall 240' to the ground. The deceased also fell 240' while attached to the gin pole.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All rigging equipment for material handling shall be inspected prior to use on each shift and as necessary during its use to ensure that it is safe. Any defective rigging equipment is to be removed from service.

2. Slings shall be padded or protected from the sharp edges of their loads.
3. All employees are to be trained in the hazards, and applicable standards, associated with the type of work they are performing.

Note: This case described was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from a fall. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of the legal aspects of the incident case. Your company or organization is eligible to receive one free copy of this leaflet which you may duplicate and share with your co-workers. To be placed on the distribution list, send your name, title and address to: U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA, 1100 Main, Suite 800, Kansas City, MO 64105, Attn: TECFAP, or e-mail to dearing-cynthia@dol.gov.