



National Association of Tower Erectors

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Dear Tower Industry Professional:

Earlier this year, the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE) introduced the NATE Tower Climber Fall Protection Training Standard (NATE CTS). The NATE CTS was developed to improve tower climber safety by addressing inconsistent and inadequate training that can result from the lack of a recognized standard.

Over the past few years, the need for a tower climber training standard has become increasingly clear. In 2002, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, John Henshaw, wrote a letter to tower owners, carriers, broadcasters and general contractors stressing their role in reducing injuries and fatalities resulting from falls from heights. In 2003, a panel of industry safety experts made clear that the lack of a standard was making this effort more difficult. At that time, NATE began working on a solution.

Two years later, the hard work and dedication of many NATE Member companies resulted in the NATE CTS. The standard defines three levels of climber training – Authorized Climber, Competent Climber, and Competent Rescuer. Each level contains individual standards outlining learning objectives, learning conditions, and performance requirements. The NATE CTS also provides a Course Training Plan to assist companies in developing their training regimen.

The successful implementation of the NATE CTS will provide, for the first time, a method for determining which tower crews have received training comprised of appropriate information, education, equipment, practical applications and evaluations. Whether training takes place through a third-party trainer or is provided “in-house” by a company’s own safety personnel, the NATE CTS will serve as the indicator of which tower climbers are prepared to work safely.

The NATE CTS is the standard to which all tower climbers should be trained. Your involvement in ensuring the implementation and recognition of this standard throughout the industry is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions about the NATE CTS, please do not hesitate to call me at 888-882-5865 or send me an email at patrick@natehome.com. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Patrick Howey
Executive Director
National Association of Tower Erectors

“Providing a unified voice for the tower erection, service and maintenance industry.”

Safety from the ground up!