



# PUBLIC NOTICE



**Federal Communications Commission**  
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Washington, D.C. 20554

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**U.S. Department of Labor**  
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News Media Information 202 / 693-2020  
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DA 14-1131  
August 4, 2014

## FCC AND DOL ANNOUNCE WORKSHOP ON TOWER CLIMBER SAFETY AND INJURY PREVENTION

By this Public Notice, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Department of Labor's (DOL) Occupational Safety and Health Administration announce the date and location of a workshop to explore issues surrounding tower climber safety, injury prevention, and fatalities involving work on communications towers. In 2013, there were thirteen communications tower-related fatalities — more than the previous two years combined.<sup>1</sup> The fatality rate for tower climbing work is more than ten times greater than that of the construction industry.<sup>2</sup> In 2014, nine fatalities involving tower work have occurred to date.<sup>3</sup>

The joint workshop will include panel discussions focusing on:

- Factors contributing to the high rate of tower climber injuries and fatalities; and
- Best practices that ensure tower climber safety and prevent injuries and fatalities.

FCC Chairman Thomas E. Wheeler is scheduled to make remarks.

**Date:** October 14, 2014  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Location:** FCC Headquarters  
Commission Meeting Room  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

<sup>1</sup> *No more falling workers*, U.S. Dep't of Labor (Feb. 11, 2014), [https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=25593](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=25593).

<sup>2</sup> See Ryan Knutson, *Methodology: How We Calculated the Tower Industry Death Rate*, ProPublica (May 21, 2012), <http://www.propublica.org/article/cell-tower-work-fatalities-methodology> (analysis based on 2003-2010 data).

<sup>3</sup> *US Tower Structure Related Fatalities*, WirelessEstimator.com (last accessed August 4, 2014), <http://www.wirelessestimator.com/generaldoc.cfm?ContentID=9>. As of August 4, 2014, WirelessEstimator.com reported eight fatalities in 2014; however, WirelessEstimator.com only tracks fatalities of tower workers and does not include the death of a firefighter responding to an incident near Clarksburg, West Virginia on February 1, 2014. See *OSHA Investigating Fatal Cell Tower Collapse in Harrison County*, WBOY.com (Feb. 4, 2014), <http://www.wboy.com/story/24608973/two-dead-three>.

A subsequent Public Notice will provide further details about the participants and specific issues to be discussed during this workshop.

The FCC and the DOL will attempt to accommodate as many attendees as possible; however, admittance will be limited to seating availability. Audio and/or video coverage of the meeting will be provided over the Internet from the FCC's Web page at <http://www.fcc.gov/live>. Open captioning will be provided for this event. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests for such accommodations should be submitted via e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or by calling the FCC's Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (tty). Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed. In addition, please include a way that the requesting party can be contacted if additional information is needed. Please allow at least five days' advance notice; last-minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill.

For additional information about this workshop, please contact Michael Janson, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, (202) 418-0600, [Michael.Janson@fcc.gov](mailto:Michael.Janson@fcc.gov), and Jim Maddux, Directorate of Construction, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, (202) 693-2020, [Maddux.Jim@osha.gov](mailto:Maddux.Jim@osha.gov).

**- FCC and DOL -**