

Tower Safety

Tim Jellison W3YQ/KL7WV





Some disclaimers:

- I am not a certified instructor.
- You will not be a certified climber after this talk.
- I am, however, a certified climber/rescuer/rigger.
- My only goal is to help you stay safe.

Hazards



- Electrocution
- Structural Failure
- Incapacitation (Don't climb crank-ups)
- Falls



Hazards

● Electrocution

Check for powerlines before beginning work.

Dipoles, verticals, towers, Yagis, ropes.

They're all conductive.



Hazards

● Structural failure

Check all guy wires.

Check foundation.

Check for rust/degraded components.

Cheap hardware used?

Guyed towers need to be straight and plumb.

Install temporary guys when stacking or dismantling towers.

Hazards



● Incapacitation

Know your body.

Heat/cold. Both can tap your strength.

Work slowly and methodically.

Insects and birds.



Hazards

● Falls

Any fall could be fatal.

Even falling 10 feet could kill you.

100% tie-off. **No free climbing.** No exceptions.



Safety procedures

- First – check for power lines
- Use a proper harness and lanyards
- 100% Tie-off. NO FREE CLIMBING
- EVERYONE wears a hardhat
- Never “EVER” ride a rope, capstan



- 100% Tie off. No free climbing!
- Always use a full body harness.
- It will keep you safe(r) and it will greatly assist the rescuer during a rescue.
- I use a DBI Sala Exofit harness. But there are all kinds of approved options on the market.
- None of it is cheap, however. But what's your life worth?





Plus, you can get a harness with a seat strap. These are the best!!!



Positioning Device



Double Fall Arrest Lanyards

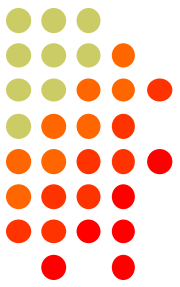


Double Fall Arrest Lanyards



Full Body Harness





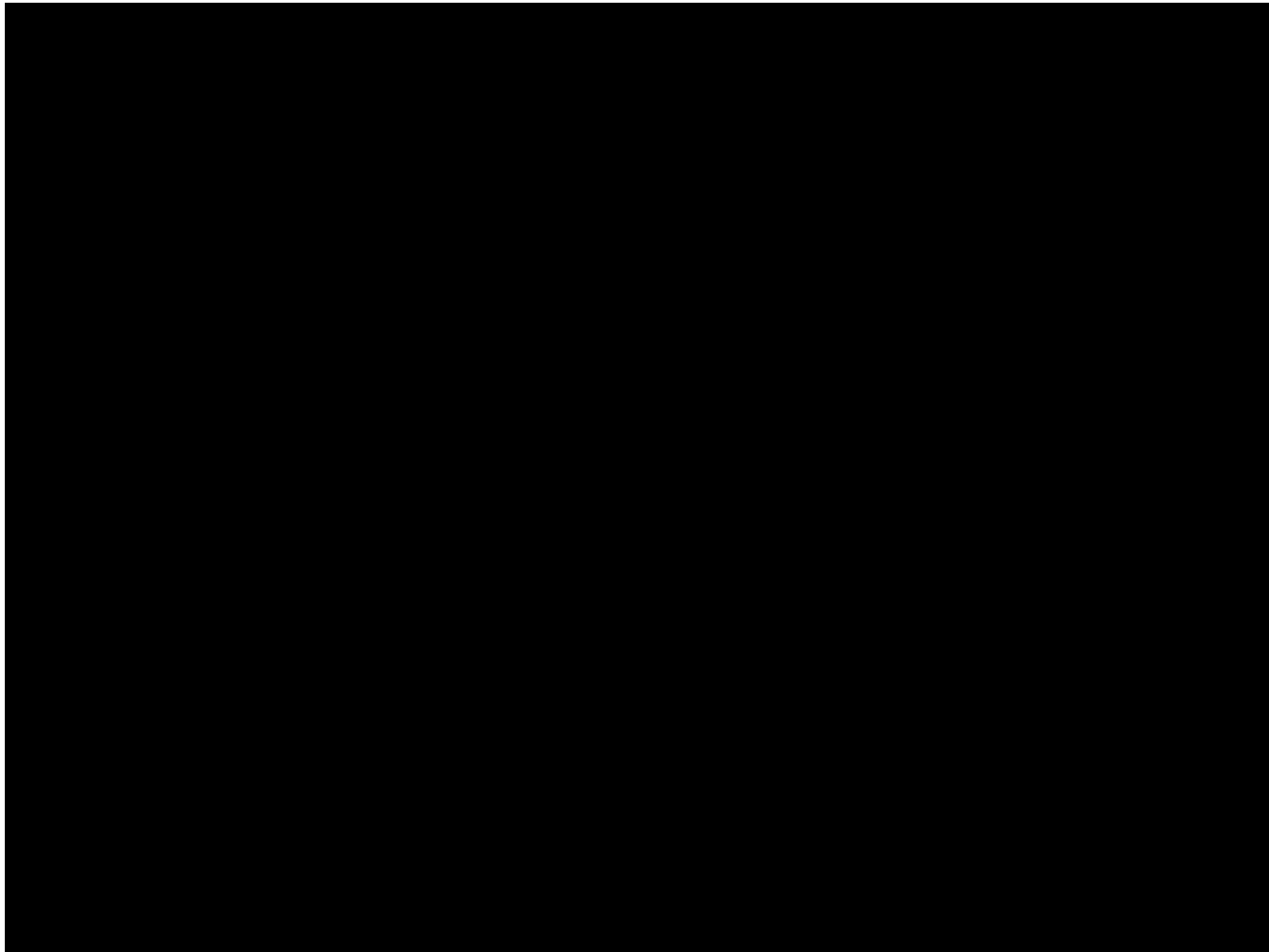
Fall Arrest Equipment

- The true, proper and safe methods of using fall arrest equipment is complicated and beyond the capabilities of this class. But we'll do our best.
- Using it improperly can be dangerous. And it might give you a false sense of security.
- Taking a professional tower climbing class is highly recommended.



Fall Arrest Equipment

- The forces exerted on your body during a fall will surprise you.
- The tie-off point for your fall arrest equipment is critical.
- And while (if used properly) the fall arrest equipment will save your life, you WILL be hurt.







Fall Arrest

Only attach to the back, dorsal D-ring.

Your attachment point must hold 4000 lbs.

Will it hold a pickup truck?

When using a fall arrest lanyard, the tie-off point is critical. Don't trust Rohn cross braces. They're not strong enough.



Snap around the tower leg instead



Good way to climb Rohn towers



**Be careful at the top of the tower.
Don't let the lanyard slip over the top.**



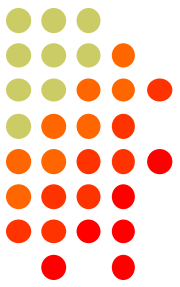


- Using man lifts and cranes cost you some \$, but they're a good way to do tower work. And do it safely.
- When using a man lift or a man basket hung from a crane, a full body harness with fall arrest lanyard **MUST** be used.













- If hiring a tower crew, use only certified climbers
- Consider becoming a certified climber yourself
- www.comtrainusa.com
www.citca4training.com

**And above all, when climbing
follow all safety rules!**



NO SK's

