



Safety Bulletin - October 2019

Lowering Objects from Height

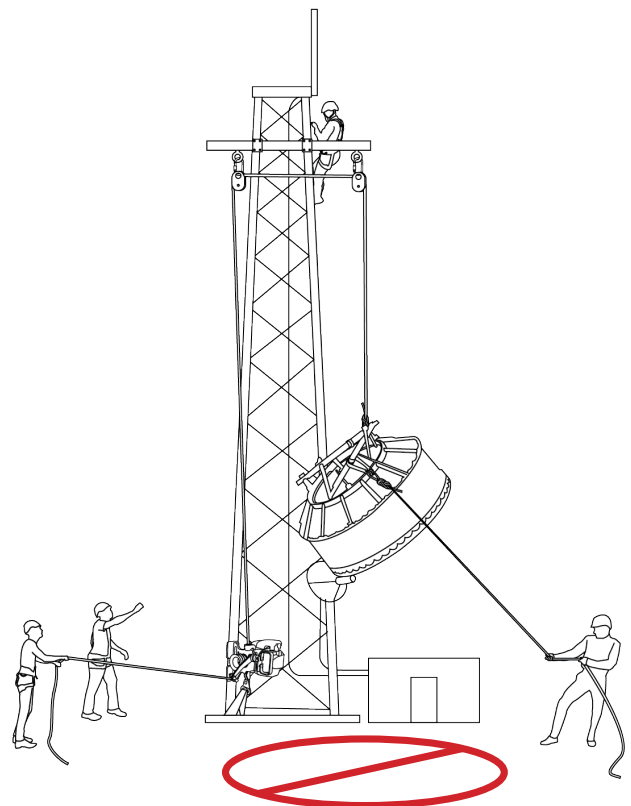
Moving objects at height (vertically, horizontally or diagonally) is a dangerous activity that is done on site more frequently. Most of the time, objects get lifted from the ground and installed at height. A key aspect that is often overlooked is when an object is already at height and needs to be repositioned or lowered.

There will be some challenges to overcome when moving an object at height, such as:

- The type of structure on which you will work (monopole, lattice mast, rooftop etc.)
- Any changes in the weight of the load since installation (water ingress, upgrades installed on the equipment etc.)
- Anchor points that might not be safe or adequate for the task being performed
- Getting the required tools and equipment up with you
- Potentially shock loading the system during pre-lift at height
- Rusted bolts or brackets making the work more difficult or dangerous
- Other workers or public being in the drop zone area

These challenges can be managed as follows:

- Identify the type of structure beforehand and ensure proper planning has been done
- Verify the weight of the object by means of information supplied by the manufacturer or installers
- Always ensure that the Working Load Limit of the tools/ equipment that will be used exceeds the estimated weight of the load
- Identify the anchor points and ensure they are safe for use and fit for purpose (check that the planned anchors have a valid certification plate)
- Plan carefully for the lowering operation to ensure all the required tools/ equipment are available. The use of a 1:1 pulley system can be used to lift the tools/ equipment up to the required height
- Perform a pre-lift, or suspension test, once the bolts or brackets are loosened but not removed, in order to avoid accidentally dropping the object
- When removing rusted bolts or brackets, always attempt all other possible solutions before opting to cut them off, as this can shock-load the system
- Establish a big enough drop zone (exclusion zone) and, if required, ensure that there is a patrol person to avoid any unauthorised entry



Transporting objects at height remains a dangerous task and it is vital that these operations are properly planned for and documented.

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