

NOTICE TO ALL FALL PROTECTION PLANNERS

- A RESCUE PLAN FOR MONOPOLE RESCUES -

In the last 12 months, we encountered four critical situations on monopoles. Two fire-related incidents, one medical-related incident and one incident where a technician encountered bees, resulting in a fatality.

Gravity, together with Vodacom and Vodafone, evaluated each of the emergency scenarios and looked for suitable solutions that were both cost-effective and required very little additional training and equipment. It became clear that dedicated rescue procedures for both the inside and outside of monopoles must be critically assessed by Fall Protection Planners.

According to South African legislation, a fall protection plan must be designed and implemented by a Fall Protection Plan Developer. Although this regulation must be enforced within South Africa only, it is advised that these best-practice principles are also implemented internationally. Having a dedicated rescue plan could have resulted in possible safe rescue solutions for the technicians mentioned in the above scenarios.

Herewith an extract of South Africa's OSH Act for clarity on the requirements of a Fall Protection Plan Developer and rescue planning.

OSH Act 85 of 1993, Construction Regulation 10 - Fall protection

10.(1) A contractor must

(a) designate a competent person to be responsible for the preparation of a fall protection plan.

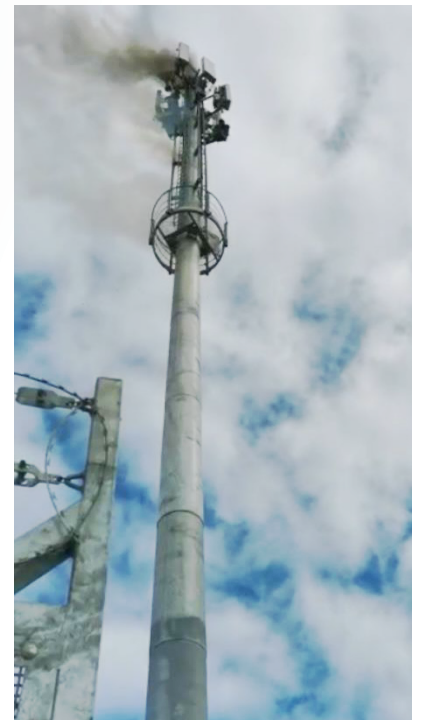
(b) ensure that the fall protection plan contemplated in paragraph (a) is implemented, amended where and when necessary and maintained as required; and

(c) take steps to ensure continued adherence to the fall protection plan.

(2) A fall protection plan contemplated in sub regulation

(1), must include-

(e) a rescue plan detailing the necessary procedure, personnel and suitable equipment required to affect a rescue of a person in the event of a fall incident to ensure that the rescue procedure is implemented immediately following the incident.



Gravity herewith notifies and reminds all contractors and technicians climbing monopole structures, to review their fall protection plans as per sub-regulation 10. (1) (b) (OSH Act 85 of 1993, South Africa). We would like to offer a brief review of your current fall protection plan and assist with expanding said plan to include monopole rescue SOPs.

"Together we can avoid further fatalities on monopoles through proper planning"

