

Cell Tower Climbing & Rescue Equipment Inspection Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Inspection checklist

Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) Inspection

☐ Inspect full-body harness for tears, cuts, abrasions, chemical damage, and UV degradation. Ensure all buckles and D-rings are functional and not deformed. (ANSI Z359.11)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Examine lanyards (including self-retracting lifelines - SRLs) for frayed fibers, cuts, burns, or chemical damage. Verify that the locking mechanisms on snap hooks and carabiners function properly and are double-locking. (OSHA 1926.502(d))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Test SRLs for proper retraction and locking functionality. Ensure the lifeline extends and retracts smoothly and locks immediately upon sudden force. (ANSI Z359.14)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Inspect energy absorbers for signs of deployment or damage. If deployed, remove from service immediately. Verify that the energy absorber is appropriate for the user's weight and the potential fall distance. (ANSI Z359.1)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Confirm that all connectors (snap hooks, carabiners) are compatible with the anchor points and other components of the PFAS. Avoid incompatible connections that could lead to roll-out. (OSHA 1926.502(d)(3))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Verify that all anchor points are capable of supporting at least 5,000 lbs per employee attached, or are designed, installed, and used under the supervision of a qualified person as part of a complete personal fall arrest system which maintains a safety factor of at least two. (OSHA 1926.502(d)(15))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If using a rope grab, ensure it moves freely along the lifeline but locks securely when subjected to a sudden force. Inspect the rope grab for wear or damage. (ANSI Z359.15)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that a 100% tie-off system is in place, allowing continuous fall protection while moving between anchor points. Ensure two lanyards or a specialized 100% tie-off lanyard are available and in good condition.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Calculate the required fall clearance distance, considering lanyard length, energy absorber deployment distance, and safety factor. Ensure adequate clearance exists to prevent striking a lower level. (ANSI Z359.1)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm all components of the PFAS are compatible and from the same manufacturer, or certified as compatible by a qualified person. (OSHA 1926.502(d))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

RF Radiation Monitoring Equipment

☐	Verify that the RF monitor is calibrated and within its calibration period. Check the calibration sticker for the expiration date. (FCC OET Bulletin 65)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Test the RF monitor's functionality by exposing it to a known RF source. Ensure it provides accurate readings and the audible alarm functions correctly. (FCC OET Bulletin 65)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that all antennas in the immediate work area have been properly deactivated and locked out/tagged out (LOTO) before commencing work. (OSHA 1910.147)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Review the RF hazard assessment for the site, identifying potential RF sources and safe working distances. Ensure all personnel are aware of the hazards and control measures. (FCC OET Bulletin 65)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure the RF monitor is positioned correctly on the climber's body to accurately measure RF exposure levels in the breathing zone. (FCC OET Bulletin 65)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that the RF monitor's alarm settings are appropriate for the site's RF environment and comply with regulatory limits. (FCC OET Bulletin 65)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Check the RF monitor's battery level and ensure it is fully charged before climbing. Carry a spare battery if necessary. (Manufacturer's Instructions)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that all personnel have received adequate RF awareness training and understand the risks associated with RF radiation exposure. (FCC OET Bulletin 65)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Review emergency procedures in case of RF overexposure, including evacuation routes and contact information for medical assistance. (Site-Specific Emergency Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that appropriate RF warning signs and barriers are in place to restrict access to areas with high RF radiation levels. (FCC OET Bulletin 65)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Gin Pole and Rigging Equipment

☐	Inspect the gin pole for any signs of bending, cracks, corrosion, or weld defects. Ensure the pole is straight and in good working condition. (ASME B30.5)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Examine wire ropes for broken wires, kinks, crushing, bird caging, or corrosion. Remove any wire rope that shows signs of damage. (OSHA 1926.759(f))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect shackles for deformation, cracks, or wear. Ensure the shackle pin is properly sized and secured. (ASME B30.26)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect slings (synthetic and wire rope) for cuts, abrasions, chemical damage, or broken fibers/wires. Remove any damaged slings from service. (OSHA 1926.759(e))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Test the hoist (manual or powered) for proper lifting and lowering functionality. Ensure the brake engages correctly and the load is held securely. (ASME B30.16)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that the gin pole, rigging hardware, and hoist have sufficient load ratings for the intended lift. Do not exceed the manufacturer's rated capacity. (ASME B30.5)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Review the rigging plan, ensuring it accounts for the weight of the load, the lifting height, and any potential obstructions. (Site-Specific Rigging Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure tag lines are used to control the load during lifting and lowering operations. Tag lines should be in good condition and of sufficient length. (OSHA 1926.753(e))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Confirm that a qualified rigger is supervising the lifting operation and has inspected all rigging equipment. (OSHA 1926.753(c))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Assess the ground conditions where the gin pole is set up. Ensure the ground is stable and level to prevent tipping or sinking. (Manufacturer's Instructions)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If the gin pole has outriggers, ensure they are properly extended and locked in place to provide additional stability. (Manufacturer's Instructions)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Climbing Structure and Step Bolts

☐	Inspect step bolts for looseness, corrosion, bending, or missing bolts. Tighten or replace any defective step bolts before climbing. (TIA-222-H)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Examine the tower structure for signs of corrosion, rust, or structural damage. Report any significant corrosion or damage to a qualified engineer. (TIA-222-H)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect welds for cracks, porosity, or other defects. Report any questionable welds to a qualified welding inspector. (AWS D1.1)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Check for loose connections, bolts, or fasteners on the tower structure. Tighten any loose connections to the manufacturer's specifications. (TIA-222-H)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect platforms and walkways for structural integrity, including loose or missing planks, damaged railings, and secure anchor points. (OSHA 1926.760)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure the climbing structure is free of ice and snow before climbing. Remove any ice or snow that could create a slip hazard. (Site-Specific Safety Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Assess the lighting conditions and ensure adequate illumination is available for safe climbing. Use supplemental lighting if necessary. (OSHA 1926.56)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Evaluate weather conditions (wind, rain, temperature) and determine if it is safe to climb. Postpone climbing if conditions are unfavorable. (Site-Specific Safety Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that communication systems (radios, cell phones) are functioning properly and that all personnel can communicate effectively. (Site-Specific Communication Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure that any installed vertical lifeline systems are properly installed and inspected per manufacturer's instructions. (ANSI Z359.16)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Emergency Descent and Rescue Equipment

☐	Inspect controlled descent devices (CDDs) for wear, damage, or corrosion. Ensure the device functions smoothly and locks properly. (EN 341)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Examine rescue ropes for cuts, abrasions, chemical damage, or UV degradation. Ensure the rope is of sufficient length and strength for the intended rescue operation. (NFPA 1983)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect pulleys for smooth operation, proper alignment, and secure attachment points. Ensure the pulley is rated for the intended load. (ASME B30.26)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Review the site-specific rescue plan, ensuring all personnel are familiar with the procedures and their roles in the rescue operation. (Site-Specific Rescue Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that a well-stocked medical kit is readily available at the site, including supplies for treating falls, burns, and other potential injuries. (ANSI Z308.1)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that trained rescuers are present on site and are proficient in the use of rescue equipment and techniques. (OSHA 1926.502(d)(20))	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure the descent path is clear of obstructions and hazards that could impede a rescue operation. (Site-Specific Rescue Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that backup rescue systems are in place in case the primary system fails. (Site-Specific Rescue Plan)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that all rescue equipment is compatible and from the same manufacturer, or certified as compatible by a qualified person. (Manufacturer's Instructions)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Perform a pre-use check of all rescue equipment before each use, ensuring it is in good working condition and ready for deployment. (Manufacturer's Instructions)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____