

## STAC Workplace Health & Safety Committee meeting notes

Meeting: September 14, 2016; 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. EDT



Structure, Tower &  
Antenna Council  
Conseil des structures,  
pylônes et antennes

### Action Items:

- Volunteers to begin work on lightning guidelines document
  - Volunteers include Adam Gale (Vertical) Philippe Lavoie (TELUS), Roy Holland (Rogers)
- Volunteers to begin work on municipal roads protection project
  - Carm Cirillo (Rogers) as team lead; additional volunteers include Asma Arefeen (Rogers) and Dave Ramdeane (Bell)
  - Nick to reach out to specific STAC Members with knowledge in this area to encourage their participation
  - Committee members to send links to provincial guidelines to Nick
- Nick to start email conversation between rope access project volunteers to begin identifying various scenarios in which rope access might be necessary or ideal
  - Volunteers include Adam Gale (Vertical), Cesar Galvez (Telecon), WSP volunteer

### Attendees:

- Nick Kyonka (STAC)
- Clay Parchewsky (WesTower)
- Adam Gale (Vertical)
- Asma Arefeen (Rogers)
- Brent Hrywkiw (WSP)
- Carm Cirillo (Rogers)
- Cesar Galvez (Telecon)
- Dave Ramdeane (Bell)
- Denis Darveau (Videotron)
- Dominique Valdez (eSystem)
- Hany Danial (Rogers)
- Ian Panagapka (Rigarus)
- Joseph Neglia (Rogers)
- Khurram Javed (Bell)
- Mélanie Barbe (CIMA+)
- Nick Sarantinos (Netricom)
- Philippe Lavoie (TELUS)
- Rick Lee (WireE)
- Roy Holland (Rogers)
- Yanic Raymond (WSP)

### Meeting Notes:

#### 1. STAC Talks

- STAC launched in August a new resource product on the Members website: STAC Talks
  - Includes conversations and information obtained following requests from STAC Members for information
  - The idea is to produce these documents following requests whenever possible, since it is far more effective to share the information with everyone as opposed to just the individual or company that made the request
    - Documents posted in Hot Topics for now, but Nick will also create a separate section for STAC Talks going forward
  - Will confirm that all participants are comfortable with what they're quoted as saying before releasing documents
  - Also willing to include companies' documents directly in the STAC Talks products, as we did with one of the first two we published in August
    - First two published are both topics that we ultimately decided were worthy of greater discussion: Tall Tower Rescue and Working Around Lightning

#### 2. Tall Tower Rescue

- First STAC Talks document was on Tall Tower Rescue, after we received a request from a Member who was tasked with developing a rescue plan before working on a tower that was greater than 400'
  - As evident in the STAC Talks document, there are a couple of different opinions here

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- First is to use multiple rescue systems and transfer from one to the other in order to complete the entire descent
  - Second option could be securing a longer rope to use in a rescue kit, if available
  - Third option is to get a Rescue and Descent device
  - At this point, we are not proposing a STAC project on this topic, but will likely hold a STAC 2017 session on this topic instead
    - Member notes that descent devices are typically only rated to about 650' or so, and will need to go to a second device anyway at that point
      - Notes that transfers need to be in rescue plan at this point
      - Supports this as a conference topic
3. Lightning Policy
- Second STAC Talks document was on Lightning Policy, after we received a request from a Member who was reviewing their own company's internal policy
    - General suggestion was that work should stop whenever lightning is seen or thunder can be heard
      - Also very important to note in a policy that crews must come down from towers and move away from them
        - Must also move away from things guy wires and other connected components
    - Also received some good suggestions from Vista about how crews can best monitor the weather to ensure they are aware of any electrical storms moving into the area
    - Also included in here some information from the National Lightning Safety Institute in the US, including tips on how to educate your employees about lightning policy and safety, and instructions on how to – and how not to – shelter yourself during an electrical storm
    - Finally, also included some information from WSP on the “40-30” concept they follow
    - One thing that struck Nick was that many respondents to my request for information said their company does not have a formal policy
      - Suggestion at this point that STAC work to develop a best practices policy/document that Members could either reference or incorporate directly
        - General agreement
        - Volunteers include: Adam Gale, Philippe Lavoie, Roy Holland
      - Member asks whether STAC would be developing a policy or a guideline
        - Nick says he envisions the document as providing a policy that companies could adopt, but also serving as a guideline to those who may want to use it to develop their own policy
      - Member notes that they have lightning mentioned in some of their policies and guidelines, mostly in relation to connecting generators and trouble-shooting power issues
4. Work Area Protection on Municipal Roads
- Carm from Rogers notes that many telecom workers need to use traffic control when doing work on poles or on side of municipal roadways
    - In Ontario, Book 7 governs protective measures
      - Is geared towards construction industry
      - Other provinces have different guidelines, as do some municipalities

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- Book 7 has changed: the 2001 version stipulated what workers could or couldn't use, but in 2014 version some of those requirements have changed
  - Previously, could use 4-way flashers and flashing beacon if parked on a shoulder, but must now use a TL-12 bar light plus additional cones instead of beacon
    - Can be potentially costly
  - Question is whether telecom industry should come up with its own guidelines that relate more specifically to the work done in the industry, or if it would make sense to develop a guideline that looks at the thresholds across Canada
    - Member questions whether this is suitable for STAC since it appears to have more direct relevance to FTTH installations
      - Member says they believe this will be a bigger issue going forward due to increased small cell work
      - General agreement that this could be useful information for companies involved in tower/antenna work going forward
    - Member asks if anyone has faced a citation; Clay says he has heard of citations being issued
    - Asma volunteers to work on a project on this
    - Member says one issue will be to identify what teams need to be trained on roadside traffic control policies
    - Member suggests that STAC could develop its own guidelines for the industry but should still link to provincial guidelines, said we should consider covering the following issues:
      - Parking on street to complete installation
        - Do you need to contact city hall? Get flag man services?
        - Signaling
        - Strobe light requirements
        - Whether sidewalks need to be blocked
        - Whether you need to offer alternate route for pedestrians
    - Carm says there has been a big difference in the tapered zone and the distance between signals in the 2014 version of Book 7
      - Wants to identify all the changes and how it impacts the industry
    - Carm says he is willing to serve as lead on this project
      - Dave and Asma also volunteer to work on project
      - Additional volunteers are welcome and should contact Nick or Carm
      - Committee members to send relevant links to provincial guidelines to Nick
- 5. STAC Climber Training Guidelines
  - Nick notes that the project leads on the Climber Training Guidelines project have been working hard and making a great deal of progress with weekly calls

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- Nick notes that sent out a couple of the working version, and describes some of the progress made on this document
  - Notes there is continuing discussion about the wording of footnote 2 in the section on legislation
  - Notes that we have combined snap hooks and carabiners into a single section and put full body harness and D-rings together
    - NATE has snap hooks and d-rings together with carabiners in a separate section
    - General agreement that this change represents the best way to do it
  - Team leads have decided to include a sample pre-work checklist, and are likely to use a generic JHA form
    - No complaints
  - Group will continue working on Climber 1 chapter and should be done and ready to move to either Climber 2 or Rescue 1 sometime in October
    - Will likely be looking for volunteers to help proofread and edit
- Nick thanks all the volunteers who have taken part in the project, including team leads Clay (WesTower), Dominique (eSystem), Yanic (WSP), Iain Harrison (P-SEC), Marco Simard and Craig McLellan (Nouvelle Hauteur), and additional volunteers Adam (Vertical), Joseph Neglia (Rogers), Justin Sousa (Gravisys) and Herve Landreville (Gravi-t Zero)
- Dominique notes that it is extremely helpful to the team leads to have notes on a section in advance of working on it themselves
  - Nick encourages volunteers to contact him to get involved in drafting notes for sections

### 6. Rope Access

- Clay notes that a lot of people are starting to use more rope in their work
  - SPRAT and IRATA are two good standards but are not specific to tower industry
    - Notes that it is difficult and time-consuming to maintain certifications though, and unlikely the industry is ready to commit that time
  - Ideally, STAC should create separate guidelines for the tower industry
    - Member says he has found SPRAT and IRATA requirements inhibitive in some situations
      - Says edge protection guidelines would be one item to consider
    - General agreement that this would be a good project
      - Nick proposes embarking on this project once the lightning project is completed, which should not take too long
      - Member asks if we should include rope access in the STAC Climber Training Guidelines project
        - Clay says rope access is different than everything else in that document because it's not about free fall protection as there is not free fall potential with rope access
          - Says it may be necessary to include rope access in later versions once it's used more
      - Nick notes that we also need more experts who could get involved in order to address rope access adequately

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- Adam suggests that a few volunteers could start identifying scenarios for which rope access would be ideal
  - Nick asks for volunteers: Brent said he will volunteer someone on his team, Cesar volunteers
    - Nick to start email conversation between volunteers to identify scenarios

### 7. Other Business

- Ian notes there was a reported tower collapse earlier in the week: says it would be good for STAC to follow investigation to see what lessons can be learned from the incident
  - Nick agrees; notes that he will be sending out an email about this incident following this meeting and will confirm that STAC will do exactly that
    - Notes this was the first such incident since STAC launched, and the process going forward will be to send out an email confirming incident and noting STAC will continue to seek out information about lessons learned