



Next Meeting: Monday, April 6, 2020; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. EDT
DIAL IN INFO: Toll-free 1-855-343-6177; Local (Toronto): 416-933-3854
Conference ID: 2489769

Resources:

- Axia Supernet resource:
 - Health and safety precautions they are asking crews to observe when working on their sites
 - See attachment sent with meeting notes: Project- Safety Notes.pdf
- Canadian Coast Guard resource:
 - Screening For Non-Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Employees Entering CCG Facilities
 - See attachment sent with meeting notes: 6102-504.pdf
- Cognibox resources:
 - [Webinar on Controls and Business Continuity \(registration\)](#) – April 9, 12:00 p.m. EDT
 - [Responding to the pandemic | Free tools for contractors & hiring corporations](#)
 - [Educational training on covid-19](#)
 - [Employee level assessment of propagation risk](#)
 - [Contractors preparedness and response plan assessment questionnaire](#)
 - [Downloadable template to build a business continuity and response plan](#)
- Field Safe Solutions resources:
 - [COVID-19 Checklist \(image\)](#)
 - [Field Safe Solutions COVID support \(PDF overview\)](#)

Action Items:

- STAC members to let STAC know if they encounter any issues travelling to or accessing sites
- Nick to ask site owners about sharing COVID-19 related instructions they are sharing with their techs
- Nick to look into whether the federal government has issued a return-to-work protocol for people who had previously been confirmed as infected
- Nick to look into finding an insurance provider who offers COVID-19 packages for essential services
 - Committee members to send Nick any tips or leads they can offer
- STAC to look into launching a social media campaign to inform people that telecom is an essential service

Attendees:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • Nick Kyonka (STAC) | • Doug King (Big King Construction) |
| • Isabela Jimenez (STAC) | • Franz Meier (Villamar) |
| • Adam Gale (Vertical Specialties) | • Garnett Unger (Comtech) |
| • Anne-Sophie Tetreault (Cognibox) | • Gurm Brar (Rogers) |
| • Asma Arefeen (Rogers) | • Hervé Landreville (Gravi-T Zero) |
| • Behzad Fonouni (Axia) | • Helitha Gunarathna (COMsolve) |
| • Bernard (Cognibox) | • Ian Panagapka (Rigarus) |
| • Candice Styre (Tridon) | • Jared Mullett (Varcon) |
| • Cesar Galvez (Telecon) | • Jennifer Mills (Canadian Coast Guard) |
| • Chris Charlton (Axia) | • Jeff Selby (Trylon) |
| • Chris Dickson (Wesbell) | • Jerry Bezner (Alliance) |
| • Clay Parchewsky (WesTower) | • Jonathan Millette (Pinargon) |
| • Dave Perry (Alliance) | • Josh Delefortrie (Pacific Ropes) |



- Kevin Free (Shaw)
- Ken Ireland (BDCL)
- Logan Bruiners (Morrison Hershfield)
- Luc Dancause (Stantec)
- Lynn Gaskarth (RH Construction)
- Marc Patry (Stantec)
- Martin Douville (Madysta)
- Mike Edwardson (Villamar)
- Norman Quilichini (Alberta Ag. & Forestry)
- Ron Aharoni (COMsolve)
- Steven Bain (Rogers)
- Tom Viola (Grundy)
- Trevor Bolt (Varcon)

Meeting Notes:

1. Tower Collapse – Fredericton

- Nick notes that STAC is aware of a tower collapse in Fredericton earlier today
 - Images included with a news article on the collapse made it look like it was second case of a tower section breaking off, as seen in St. John's
 - The media also reported high local winds at the time of the collapse
 - No injuries reported
 - No further information available, but we will be sharing what we can as soon as possible
 - Given that this is the second collapse over the past 35 days, STAC will be paying close attention to this situation to see if there is any urgent information that needs to be communicated to the industry
 - Would note in the meantime that one carrier recently issued a notice requesting that "any contractor or engineering firm that is to perform construction or inspection work on a monopole, prior to doing any work, to please perform a visual inspection of all bolted connections and welds. The contractor or engineering firm must verify whether there are any loose/missing bolts or cracked welds. This applies to both inside and outside flange connections and base plates. If any of these deficiencies are observed, the contractor or engineering firm shall not proceed with the work, must notify [the client] immediately, and must request directions on the next steps."

2. Free Resources from STAC Members

- STAC is working to provide members with as many pertinent resources as possible, and particularly those that are being offered for free during the pandemic
 - STAC COVID-19 Resource Page is here: <https://www.stacouncil.ca/covid-19-resources/>
- Nick notes that a few STAC members have shared some resources for us to pass along
 - Will be included in meeting notes and also posted to the STAC COVID-19 resource page
- Cognibox
 - Hosting a free webinar next Thursday at noon ET that will focus on what controls companies can put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to formalise their business continuity plan
 - Will cover off:
 - How to reduce risk of spreading COVID-19
 - Tools available
 - Documentation that a company can and should put together
 - The link to register for webinar is here: https://sim.cognibox.com/webinar-preparing-to-be-first-out-of-the-gate-for-when-confinement-is-phased-out?hs_preview=VRMSbZHI-27915003368



- Cognibox is also offering free COVID-19 related tools to STAC members including:
 - [Responding to the pandemic | Free tools for contractors & hiring corporations](#)
 - [Educational training on covid-19](#)
 - [Employee level assessment of propagation risk](#)
 - [Contractors preparedness and response plan assessment questionnaire](#)
 - [Downloadable template to build a business continuity and response plan](#)
 - Field Safe Solutions
 - COVID-19 checklist and Lone Worker Program free to any Canadian company for 90 days
 - Contact Greg Clarke for more information at gclarke@fieldsafesolutions.com
 - Related resources: [COVID-19 Checklist \(image\)](#), [Field Safe Solutions COVID support \(PDF overview\)](#)
 - ProntoForms webinar
 - Nick says he will also see if there are resources relating to the ProntoForms webinar that just ended that STAC can post as well
- 3. Essential Services – Update**
- Nick notes that Public Safety recently launched a new web page on Essential Service Classification - [Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - Says it is important to note that this is not a directive from Public Safety but rather guidance to help provinces, territories, municipalities, and indigenous communities when they are making up their own regulations and needing to identify what is essential
 - Nick asks that companies let us know if you have issues accessing sites even with letters stating their work is an essential service
- 4. COVID-19 Protections**
- Update on Hotels following last call: Have provided a new resource on the COVID-19 portal for cleaning hotels
 - Isabela and Nick both scoured the web for info and this was the best article we could find: [Coronavirus can live on surfaces for hours or days: Here's how to sanitize your hotel room](#)
 - Ken noted that they are ensuring the rooms that are being booked have not had any guests in the previous 4-5 days
 - Restrooms:
 - Nick says that Axia Supernet has shared a fair bit of information about their communications on the subject of gas station restrooms in Alberta, and provided a brief write-up of their calls with Shell Canada, Petro Canada and Esso
 - Notes that the information provided is intended for general use only and may not apply to every circumstances. (Axia Supernet does not guarantee the accuracy of, nor assume the liability of the information provided here)
 - Axia Supernet recap of conversations: Shell Canada, Petro Canada and Esso provided response about fuel and washroom availability. They are trying to keep all their facilities open unless they have staffing or sanitation issues. If you find you are being prevented from entering a washroom, you should identify yourself as an essential service and you should be allowed to use the washrooms. In some cases, washrooms are closed because they don't have supplies such as toilet paper and paper towels and you could be allowed access by providing your own supplies. All



the field techs have hand sanitizer and paper towels, but it would be wise to have your own toilet paper as well.

According to Premier Kenny, public washrooms on the highway will be re-opened and there will be an increased police presence to discourage looting. Here again, you may need to ensure you have your own bathroom supplies.

The Alberta Motor Transport Association has provided a list of “Rest Area Info for Drivers” that is broken down into North, Central and South Alberta. This is a listing of rest areas and restaurant facilities that are open for use. They are also tracking what facilities offer bathrooms, take-out, walk up, drive-through and more and the web page is being constantly updated. See:

- <https://amta.ca/news-events/covid-19-resources/rest-area-info-for-drivers/>
- NOTE: Axia Supernet has also shared a file of health and safety precautions they are asking crews to observe when working on their sites
 - Information provided is intended for general use only and may not apply to every circumstances. (Axia does not guarantee the accuracy of, nor assume the liability of the information provided)
 - Information was current as of April 3
- Committee member says a Canadian Tire in Alberta also stated that their washrooms are closed across Canada
 - Some members say they have had better luck in Ontario
- Hotels
 - Nick says some members have noted that it is difficult to book hotels/motels as many are closing down for the time being
 - Jeff says he has reached out to a major chain to ensure crews had a place to stay and that they were very accommodating
- Screening processes
 - Nick shares the Canadian Coast Guard screening document (see 6102-504.pdf attached in the email with these notes)
 - General agreement that these practices represent what most people are doing
 - Nick asks what everyone else is doing in terms of screening?
 - Says he has heard that people are primarily looking for fever or cough or shortness of breath
 - Notes that some other stated symptoms that reportedly appear in 20% of case or more include: muscle aches, extreme fatigue, pink eye
 - Notes that carriers can also be asymptomatic
 - Anne-Sophie says it is important to enforce these screening procedures frequently to anyone who may be working on site or with others
 - Notes it will be important in coming weeks to provide employees with procedures for those who have recovered from COVID-19 returning to work
 - Says CDC has posted some information on when it is safe to return to work, but hasn't seen anything in Canada federally
 - CDC information available here:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov



[%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhealthcare-facilities%2Fhcp-return-work.html](#)

- Committee member asks if it is possible to ask the site owners to provide STAC and/or contractors with procedures they are implementing for their technicians internally
 - Nick says he will look into this
- Nick asks - what happens if a tech is infected on the road? Do people have contingency plans in place for allowing them to quarantine on the road and providing support as needed
 - Committee member notes that this would be dependent on provincial regulations
 - Nick says he encourages people to think about this in advance
- Due Diligence:
 - Insurance
 - Adam noted that there have been issues with getting insurance or health insurance to protect essential service workers against this pandemic
 - Request that STAC look more into this and try to find insurance providers who can assist on this front
 - Nick asks that anyone who has any recommendations on how to connect with an insurance company should reach out to him on this
 - Fines
 - Adam says different provinces have been laying out different fines in terms of people being out and about but this shouldn't be an issue if crews have letters of essential service with them
 - Nick asks for people to please let us know if you need the Federal letter of essential service
- Ensuring the public knows that Telecom is an essential service
 - Committee member reports some issues with people reporting telecom workers to police or approaching people as there are working
 - Is there a way to let the public know that telecoms work is an essential service?
 - Some companies have noted that they are looking into getting "essential workers" on their trucks
 - Committee member suggests we could try to get some media attention on this issue
 - Nick suggested that we could put something out on social media
 - Nick also mentioned how he could reach out to some contacts at CBC and see if we could get some media attention on this issue
 - Asks that if you have stories to share with us about workers receiving problems with the public, please let us know
 - Nick asks that companies please continue to let us know if these issues are continuing

5. Other Business

- Nick notes that STAC is considering holding future meetings via Zoom instead of the regular bridge and WebEx
 - Says one potential red flag is that when you dial in to a Zoom call via your phone, it displays your phone number as your username. Are there any privacy concerns for anyone?
 - No concerns raised
 - Nick says to send us an email if you think this is a good idea or a bad idea
- Next call Monday, April 6 at 11:30a.m. EDT