

RTS specializes in providing weld inspections, mappings, and condition assessment services to the tower & pole industries



## Reese Tower Services Announces Addition to Sales Team

Reese Tower Services is pleased to announce that Marcello Posada has joined the RTS team. Experienced and well respected in the structures industry, as a Sales Manager at RTS, Posada will be responsible for communications, public safety and sUAS product line sales and client service.

Previously with Valmont, Posada has over 15 years of experience and success in project management, estimating, business development, product innovation and sales/customer service. He has extensive background with tubular steel support structures including both manufacturing and engineering. Bilingual in both English and Spanish, Posada has helped clients throughout North America not just meet but exceed their project goals and is committed to the same standard of excellence in his new role at RTS. "I am beyond excited to join RTS in a business development and client relations role, and eager to help grow the company's footprint in its markets. I am also honored to be able to work side by side with the RTS team, whom I have tremendous respect and admiration" said Posada.

"We are extremely excited that Marcello has joined our team," said Brian Reese, President of RTS. "With his experience, integrity and track record exceeding client's expectations, I look forward to his contributions as we continue to grow these markets. We are optimistic about the future of all these business segments." □



## Cold Weather Welding

With the holidays comes the start of winter weather for most of the country. Winter construction is challenging in many ways - low temperatures, wind, and precipitation all combine to make quality workmanship a challenge. What does the AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code say about welding in adverse weather conditions?

Section 5.11 of the Standard addresses the welding environment. Gas-shielded flux core (FCAW-G) is not to be done in a draft or wind unless the weld is protected by a shelter. The shelter should be of material and shape appropriate to reduce wind velocity in the vicinity of the weld to a maximum of 5 mph.

No welding process shall be performed when:

- Ambient temperature is lower than 0° F

- Surfaces are wet due to rain and/or snow
- High wind velocity
- Welding personnel are exposed to inclement conditions

According to AWS, 0° F does not mean the ambient environmental temperature, but the temperature in the immediate vicinity of the weld. The ambient environmental temperature may be below 0° F, but a heated structure or shelter around the area being welded may maintain the temperature adjacent to the weldment at 0° F or higher.

Consideration of the project welding preheat requirements and how preheat will be achieved and maintained is also critical at lower temperatures. While cold weather welding is not impossible, it does require extra precautions and attention to detail. □



# Operating Cranes Safely

*Avoiding rigging mistakes and the dangers associated with improper lift calculations reduces risk for workers and the potential for property damage.*

By Kathy Gill  
Special to Reese's Pieces

The past five years have seen significant changes in safety training and education. For one thing, the American National Safety Institute (ANSI) and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) released the ANSI/ASSE A10.48 standard, "Criteria for Safety Practices with the Construction, Demolition, Modification and Maintenance of Communications Structures." Also, now many tower owners hold crews and service companies accountable for having rigging and climbing certificates on their sites. And in cooperation with the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO), the National Wireless Safety Alliance (NWSA) created testing for Telecommunications Tower Technician certification levels 1 and 2.

Education in rigging brought the biggest change, from learning angles to mechanical advantages to the capstan hoist. Rigging mistakes and the dangers associated with improper calculations can lead to a fatality or damage to the customer equipment and premises costing millions of dollars. Rigging uses the language of physics and requires an understanding that angles create leverage, which in turn applies hidden forces that may cause rigging failure.

Training and experience lead to effective safe work practices, and understanding unforeseen forces involved with rigging will go a long way toward preventing an accident and accomplishing the task safely and efficiently.

Analysis regarding lifting and hoisting operations within the exploration and pro-

duction sector of the oil and gas industry indicates that as much as 80 percent of incidents are related to human error. Examples of errors include incomplete organizing of the operation, incorrect operation concerning equipment and procedures, incorrect or incomplete maintenance or incomplete securing of the area where the lifting takes place. A management and training program focused on improving employees' work environment, behavior and attitude can have a significant effect on safety in lifting operations and, consequently, on operational costs.

The most significant human factors in lifting and hoisting operations are found in:

- The safety culture and working environment
- Employee training
- The facilities and equipment

Characteristics of a good safety culture for lifting are:

- Respect for workmates, standards and rules
- Compliance with legislation, standards, and procedures
- A commitment to encourage good practices, behavior and doing the right thing instinctively
- Intolerance of inferior practice and willingness to intervene to ensure safety

A competent rigger on-site should have a lift plan. If the lift deviates from the plan, keep the workers safe and stop the job. Hazard identification and risk assessment form an integral part of planning a lift, an assessment of the

lift and the determination of the lift method. Equipment and number of people required are critical to planning of the lift. Always be aware of the physics involved with the unforeseen forces of a lift.

Addressing the safety culture in the telecommunications industry is paramount. The industry has suffered an average of 9.3 deaths per year (336 total), since 1984. There is no quick remedy; it is going to take time.

Industry professionals may suggest that with the complexities and costs involved, it may take decades to remedy the problem. Making an investment in comprehensively training and equipping technicians to take the lead on-site where safety is concerned and structuring telecommunications companies to look beyond the bottom line are not only smart steps, they are cost-effective.

No matter the industry, human capital is a company's most valuable investment — or at least, it should be. A fatality leads to a more devastating aftermath than any loss of revenue. Ask any family that has lost a loved one, or ask a crew member who has watched a brother die on the job.

The loss of a parent (in this industry, usually a father) is costly not only in lost income, but also in grief, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and disrupted lives for surviving spouses, children and coworkers. □

Kathy Gill is the founder and owner of Tower Safety & Instruction, a company that offers training for tower climbing and equipment rigging. Visit [www.towersafety.com](http://www.towersafety.com).



## WIA Unveils New TIRAP

The tower industry gathered together recently in Washington, D.C. to honor those who have helped increase opportunities for wireless infrastructure workers across the country. The night started off with the 400-plus in attendance viewing a new video about Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP), a

nationwide apprenticeship program with a participation of 27 employers and over 2,000 apprentices.

Tilson CEO Josh Broder, interviewed in the film, said there is a 20,000 tech shortfall in bringing new systems to the marketplace and “the only way to make up for that is to bring in new people and train from the ground up.”

Fellow CEO, Joel Hightower of

Hightower Communications said, “The installation of 5G is so much more complex than what it was. TIRAP is the missing piece we’ve been looking for,” he said.

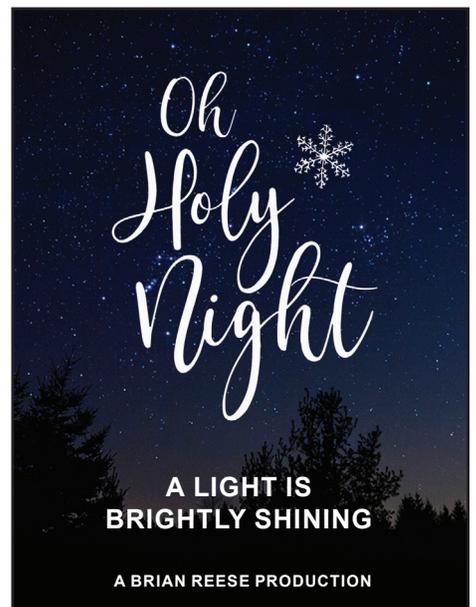
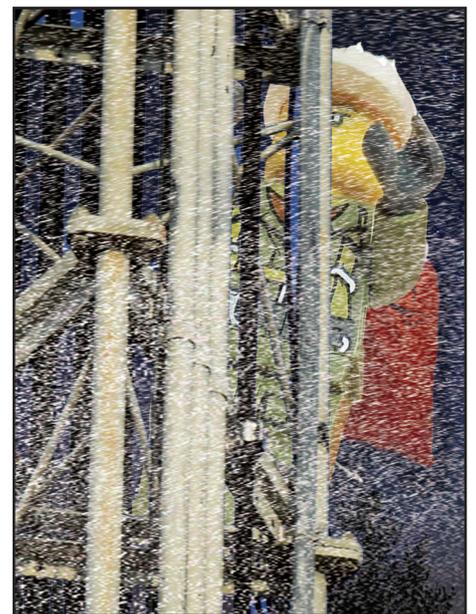
The proceeds from the WIA-hosted event will go toward TIRAP, and WIA’s Telecommunications Education Center (TEC), a technical skills training program.

“5G will transform virtually every

industry in the country and drive massive economic growth – in fact, a half a trillion a year in economic activity,” said WIA President and CEO Jonathan Adelstein. “That means the whole country is depending on us – the people and companies represented here tonight – to get this done, get it done right and done fast.” □

Article courtesy of *Inside Towers*

# Reese's MINIATURES IN BETHLEHEM ...PENNSYLVANIA



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