

# Reese's

## PIECES

RTS specializes in providing condition assessments, mappings, and weld inspection services to the tower and pole industries

## Inaugural Issue!

Welcome to the first Reese's Pieces newsletter! We'll be issuing this quarterly to communicate with both customers and vendor partners. We'll touch on various topics from safety to the technical aspects of maintaining and working on communications structures. □



## Communication Structure Modifications - Weld Inspections

Working across the country on a daily basis, RTS employs an extensive network of CWI and NDE technicians. This network allows us to respond quickly, often within 24-hour notice, in most major metropolitan areas to support our clients' efforts to enhance their communication infrastructure. During the last month of 2015, RTS released standardized welding procedures, inspection forms, and work instructions to our inspection partners. The purpose of this effort is to standardize the inspection report deliverable and improve the turnaround of the reports. The new CWI inspection form also covers site safety and fire prevention, new territory for inspectors. As the industry strives to improve site safety and fire prevention, inspectors are being called upon to assist these initiatives. Thank you for working with us to support this effort! □



## Industry Happenings

By Brian Reese

**A**s we enter 2016 and say good-bye to last year, we should continue to be ever vigilant regarding safety. Much occurred during 2015 with respect to safety and working at elevation. The Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP) finished its first full year in existence. TIRAP is a joint venture of telecommunications companies, industry associations and the U.S. Department of Labor (DoL) that develops DoL-credentialed apprenticeship programs available to qualified employers for the training and career development of the telecommunications workforce. The TIRAP's mission is to partner with stakeholders to promote safety, enhance quality, and enable education and advancement opportunities in the telecommunications workforce that will meet network infrastructure build out needs. See more about the TIRAP at [www.tirap.com](http://www.tirap.com).

OSHA continues to be concerned about tower climber safety. Early last year, OSHA queried

the industry asking for feedback on the types of hazards that communication tower workers encounter, resulting incidents, and preventive measures by employers. In December, the FCC, OSHA, and Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced a second workshop on tower climber safety and the TIRAP scheduled for February 11th in Washington DC. The first workshop on these subjects was held in October of 2014. The upcoming workshop will include panel discussions focusing on: guidance on best practices for improving tower climber safety, comments received in response to OSHA's request for information on communication tower safety, adoption of the TIRAP program, and telecommunications workforce development.

Many eyes are on our industry and many good people are working hard to make it a better, safer place to work. □



## Safety - Winter Working

After a warmer than usual fall season across most of the country, winter is finally arriving. Working at elevation is challenging without freezing temperatures. Additional risks brought by winter weather: low temperatures, wind

chill, frost bite, dehydration, icy surfaces, and extra clothing weight to battle while climbing. Short winter days bring additional schedule constraints and pressures. Know your limits and get plenty of fluids. Climb safe! □