

TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Reese's

PIECES

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



Interview: Joey Deuer of Tuf-Tug

Q: What is your background?

I started in the industry over 30 years ago. We were losing around 15 climbers a year. There were barely any standards at the time, and they weren't laid out too well. In the later part of the 1990s, various companies started to pick up safety initiatives. Bob Crown led the charge on the safety initiative. When he sold, the company became Crown Castle and they picked up the safety initiative for communication structures.

Q: How did you get started in the safety equipment industry?

My brother-in-law got me involved. We all knew a number of people that had fallen in the industry and my brother-in-law and a group of riggers saw the need for safety and safety standards.

Q: When did you start your company and please share a brief history of the company?

My father owned a manufacturing company. I took over when he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. Along with the manufactur-

ing company, in 1987 Tuf-Tug Products started. I ran production along with the engineering facility and tooling.

Q: Of all the industries you serve, which industry is your favorite?

Communications. The people I work with are a good group of people.

Q: What is the toughest part about the industries you work in?

Lead times and pricing. When we first started out, we made systems to order. We typically made 100-150 anchors, guides, and special items a day. Eventually we reevaluated and evolved our production flow, increasing inventory and now if we receive an order, it can be shipped in 4-5 days instead of 7-10 days. Getting from 7-10 days to 4-5 days took a lot of time and effort. Lastly, endless hours of product testing and development and interviewing subject matter experts on safety, materials, and testing.

Q: Why do you think that the communica-

tions industry continues to struggle with properly installing and maintaining safety cable systems?

It is getting better as time goes on. Training has been getting better as well. Customers need to get involved and stay in tune with safety, climbing, regulations, and safety requirements. Maintenance is extremely important for the tower industry.

Q: What is your favorite item of safety equipment that you developed?

I am a big fan of one of our fall protection systems that we created, the insulated synthetic safety cable system for charged structures and broadcast towers. I also love the tie-off anchors we created as well.

Q: What do you hope improves over the next couple years in regard to safety and safety cable systems?

We released a new safety cable system 3 years ago with all stainless steel-assembly, load rated spring, and an open face design for easy inspection for anyone who is climbing the structure. Inspecting the safety cable system before accessing the structure is an important practice, because it gives climbers more confidence, makes their job easier, and it protects the future generation of climbers. At Tuf-Tug Products, initially we strived to make our products compliant but we are now in the season of making our products superior. Paying a higher premium on newer and better materials goes a long way for corrosion resistance and overall performance.

Spending the money up front on a better product and hiring the right people for installation cuts down on maintenance costs in the long run. For manufacturers, tower owners, and facility owners, Deuer shared something his father told once him, "The price is long forgotten, while the quality is long remembered." He continued and said, "The climbers who use our systems are putting blind faith in us, and protecting our future generations" □

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Reese Tower Service Celebrates 10th Year Anniversary

Reese Tower Services is proud to announce our 10th anniversary. For the past decade, we have been dedicated to providing industry leading inspection, mapping, condition assessment, and forensic services to the communication, public safety, broadcast, and sports lighting industries across the country. Our commitment to ex-

cellence has allowed us to establish a reputation of reliability and quality.

We value the faith our customers have placed in us with complex and specialty projects. As we celebrate this significant milestone, we extend our gratitude to our customers and vendors for their support and partnership. You have been instrumental to

our success, and we are excited to continue to work with you and new customers for many years to come.

We look forward to future opportunities and challenges with enthusiasm, and we will continue to be committed to delivering remarkable services and solutions in a safe manner for the evolving needs of our customers. □

NATE Unveils New Rigging Training Standard

NATE has announced a new Rigging Training Standard (RTS) that is intended to introduce a minimum baseline of knowledge and skills for employees performing material rigging operations on antenna supporting structures. It is available in electronic format for free to member companies and for purchase for stakeholders representing non-members.

The standard offers support to an employer's development and maintenance of its Rigging Training Program to comply with the ANSI/ASSP A10.48-2023 standard. The document presents a series of training topics, establishing a minimum baseline of knowledge and skill that a

technician engaging in material rigging should possess.

Training topics include an evaluation example which is intended to assist an employer in documenting a student's written performance and practical skills. Additionally, it offers guidelines to support an employer's development and maintenance of its rigging training program to comply with the ANSI/ASSP A10.48-2023 Standard.

"We are thrilled to offer this new RTS resource to better facilitate and standardize material rigging training and ultimately improve safety in the industry," said Director of Safety, Health & Compliance Kathy Stieler. "This new RTS document instantly becomes the Association's signature safety resource and provides an invaluable tool in the toolbox to ensure that material rigging training is consistent regardless of who is conducting the training."

"The development of the NATE RTS is a by-product of hundreds of hours of sweat equity from some of the industry's most prominent subject matter experts," said OSHA Relations Committee Chair member Justin Miller, who presided over the Ad-Hoc Committee that produced the new resource. "I would encourage all NATE member companies and industry stakeholders to obtain a copy of the RTS today and incorporate the material rigging training requirements into their respective training programs," added Miller. □

NATE Announces Environmental & Regulatory Guidance to Contractors Resource Document



NATE has unveiled a new Environmental and Regulatory Guidance to Contractors resource document.

As part of their mission, the Association has developed this resource document to provide member contractor firms and their employees with an understanding of environmental regulations, issues, and conditions that may be encountered on job sites.

Over the past several decades, wireless carriers and larger infrastructure companies have become more aware of environmental conditions that can affect a project and have staff and

procedures in place to evaluate these conditions and ensure compliance. Some other companies, however, such as WISPS, ISPs, smaller tower developers, and contractor companies may not have the resources or knowledge that ensure complete evaluation and compliance.

The resource document is divided into two basic categories, namely Hazardous Materials/Contamination and NEPA Issues, which focuses on biological issues (species, wetlands, etc.) and historic preservation.

"Regardless of the level of experience, the size of the company, and the available resources, it is not uncommon for miscommunication, or lack of communication, to result in key information related to environmental compliance not being transmitted to contracting departments and contractors," said David Jermakian, President of NATE member company Dynamic Environmental Associates, Inc. "By being aware of

the potential environmental issues that companies may encounter on any given project, they will be able to assist their clients in ensuring that a project runs smoothly, while at the same time, limiting the company's exposure and liability. I would encourage all Member companies to utilize this resource document to further educate their employees," added Jermakian. □

NATE is a non-profit association dedicated to providing a unified voice for companies in the diverse tower and communications infrastructure industries. It is recognized as the tower industry leader in promoting safety, standards, and education. Today, the Association boasts approximately 960 member companies (mostly small businesses) that construct, service or maintain hundreds of thousands of communications towers and next generation networks throughout the United States and 12 other countries.



RTS Welcomes Dennis Abel

We are pleased to announce that Dennis Abel has joined us as Director of Engineering. Dennis' wealth of tower engineering and leadership experience is a great fit for RTS. Dennis most recently worked for FDH Infrastructure Services as Vice President of Structural Health Monitoring. His team designed and used structural health monitoring (SHM) systems to assess the health of critical infrastructure through data and engineering analysis to help owners and operators make important decisions about their assets. Prior to that role Dennis led FDH's structural engineering department, overseeing operations, systems development, and quality management. Dennis has worked in the telecommunications tower industry for more than 25 years, focusing on the design and analysis of towers, tower reinforcement systems, tower appurtenances, rooftop structures, and foundations, and the development of engineering systems at companies such as Aero Solutions, Nello Corporation and Valmont.

Dennis has been a long-time member of the TIA TR14 Committee, which writes the TIA-222 tower design standard. He recently chaired the Guy Assemblies ad hoc group, revising several sections for the TIA-222-I Standard. He has also served as Vice Chair of the Existing Structures group and has participated on several other groups including those dealing with Small Wind Turbine Towers and Mount-to-Tower Interaction. Dennis is a contributing author to industry publications on structural standards. He is a licensed professional engineer in 43 states and holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. Dennis is married, has three children, and lives in Raleigh, North Carolina. He enjoys playing ice hockey, hiking, kayaking, and traveling. Brian Reese stated, "We are excited that someone as experienced and talented as Dennis has joined us and we look forward to his contributions to our team." □

Reese's MINIATURES IN DUTY CALLS

STARRING
BRIAN REESE
as THE WINTER CLIMBER

and GUEST STARRING
DENNIS ABEL
as THE WINGMAN

A BRIAN REESE PRODUCTION

AS RTS CONTINUES ITS TIRELESS PURUIT OF TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE ELIMINATION OF TOE CRACKS, BRIAN SOON REALIZES THE DEFEAT OF TOWER HAZARDS IS GREATER THAN HE AND CODY ALONE CAN TACKLE.

THE WINTER SOLDIER, THE FIRST SUPER TOWER GUY HAS COME TO GRIPS WITH NEEDING A SIDEKICK.

DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

DENNIS ABEL

THE WINGMAN.

WITH RENEUED VIGOR, BRIAN THE WINTER CLIMBER, ALONG WITH HIS NEW PARTNER THE WINGMAN AND CODY REESE ENGAGE THE ENEMY.

AT REESE TOWER SERVICES OUR JOB IS TO TAKE TOWERS AS THEY ARE AND MAKE THEM INTO THE TOWERS YOU NEED.

WHETHER CAMP LEHIGH IN NEW JERSEY OR YOUR TOWER WHEREVER IT MAY BE, AT REESE TOWER SERVICES. WE BRING YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN GROUND-BASED AND SAFE AERIAL INSPECTIONS, INCLUDING CONDITION ASSESSMENTS, RETRIEVING FIELD DATA, PERFORMING WELD INSPECTIONS, AND NON-DESTRUCTIVE WELD EXAMINATIONS. WHETHER YOUR MOTIVATION IS STRUCTURAL OPTIMIZATION OR EXTENDING THE LIFE OF YOUR STRUCTURES,

RTS WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN YOUR TRUST AND BUSINESS.

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