

# Tower Alert

**To:** Tower Owners and Contractors  
**From:** Craig Snyder, President – **Sioux Falls Tower & Communications**  
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**Date:** 20 March 2003  
**Re:** Tower Failure Due To Anchor Corrosion

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## **Tower Failure Due To Anchor Corrosion**

Those of you who know me, know how I feel about the problem of corrosion on guy anchors. The issue is personal to me because of my eye witness experience to a tower failure in 1990 causing serious injury to two climbers.

I've heard many reports across the nation since that time of similar failures due to corrosion. This week a tower fell very close to our home base. Because of this, I've decided to once again do my best to alert the industry to this problem and encourage tower owners and service companies to be extremely diligent in ensuring that lives are not put in jeopardy needlessly. Here is my suggested course of action to safeguard personnel against tower failures due to guy anchor corrosion.

### **Do not climb guyed towers unless one or more of the following is in place or has occurred.**

- A. The anchor shafts are totally encased in concrete to above ground.
- B. The anchors were previously inspected and have had cathodic protection in place and working since the inspection.
- C. The anchors are dug up and inspected immediately before climbing and show no signs of structural damage due to corrosion.

### **Once your tower anchors are deemed safe, here is the next step?**

- A. Install a cathodic protection system that allows for continuous monitoring such as the one offered by **AnchorGuard** Corrosion Control System for Tower Anchors, (800) 653-3392. [www.anchorguard.com](http://www.anchorguard.com)
- B. Regularly inspect the cathodic protection system and ensure it is properly working.

On the next page you can view a few pictures of corroded anchors and the devastation of a fallen tower.



Mitchell, SD (installed 10/89, failed 3/18/2003)



Mitchell - Notice no corrosion until 2' below grade



Mitchell, SD anchor close up



Morton, IL failed tower - 2001



Failed dual anchor shaft – Morton, IL