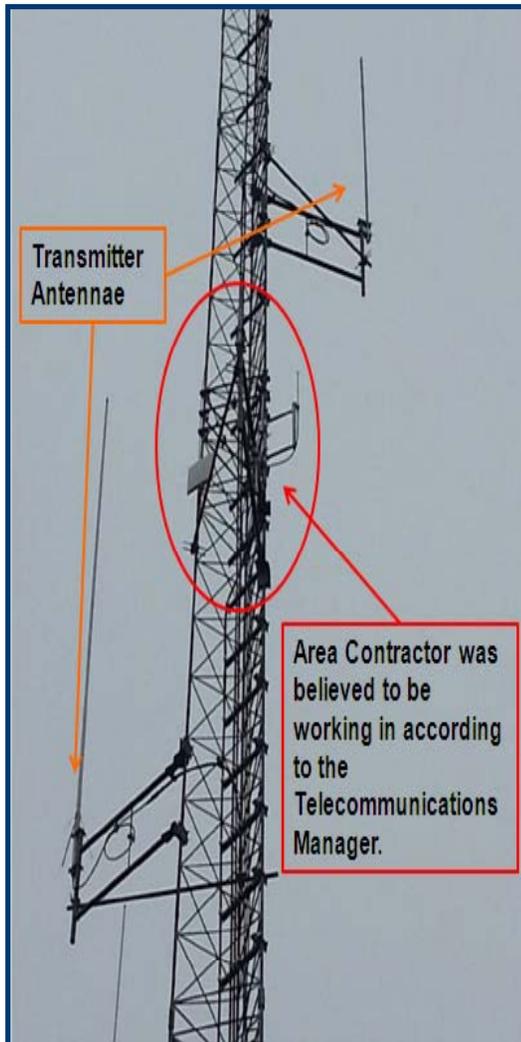


Near Miss



Failure to Communicate Radiation Hazard



Potential Outcome: Personnel injury

Activity: A contractor needed access to an Enterprise Land Mobile Radio (ELMR) tower to fix an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) antenna. The contractor coordinated access with NAVFAC staff, who met the contractor at the tower, inspected his climbing credentials and harnesses, and called a controlling authority of the fenced compound. The controlling authority presumed entry was for ground level electrical utility work, and, unaware of plans to climb the tower, opened the compound and departed. The controlling authority returned to find the contractor on the tower, and informed him that the antennae were actively transmitting and the tower was considered a Hazards of Electromagnetic Radiation to Personnel (HERP) zone. The contractor immediately suspended work and descended the tower until the antennae were turned off. Collaboration of Safety and SPAWAR staff confirmed no exposure above the maximum exposure limit.

Possible Cause

- Communication failure among involved stakeholders regarding RF hazard

Lessons Learned

- Warning signage shall be installed where RF hazards exist
- Work plans shall include affirmation by all stakeholders of the awareness of work scope and all hazards prior to work being performed.

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