

The Problems with Overweight Cell Towers

After a long weekend in the U.S., many people are thinking about the problem of putting on too much weight. Did you know that wireless towers can pack on too many pounds, as well? In today's blog post, Philip Sorrells outlines the four reasons why weight and wind load are important to consider for wireless towers. You can learn more by accessing the new white paper, "Technical Keys to Successful Network Modernization: Weight and Wind Load."

Why is it important to focus on **weight and wind load** for a wireless tower? Four key reasons:

- **Performance**
- **Revenue**
- **Expenses**
- **Safety**

When you think about it, it's easy to see how weight and wind can impact the

performance of a wireless system on a tower. Improperly designed, configured or installed equipment on a tower—or even choosing the wrong mount—can cause mis-alignments and even total failure. Drawing a direct line from those kinds of **impacts to revenue** is easy.

In terms of expenses, in many cases, the **cost of leasing tower space** is based largely on how much **loading a base station antenna** adds to the tower structure. That's why wireless operators often use wind load data presented by base station antenna manufacturers when deciding on which antennas to



deploy. Therefore, it is important for operators and tower owners to **fully understand how wind load data is calculated** so fair comparisons can be made between various antennas.

Safety must always be paramount to operators as well. As networks become larger and more complex, overweight towers or configurations that present **wind resistance** can cause equipment to loosen or mounts to fail, which can represent a danger to residents nearby. The safety of **maintenance crews** must always be taken into consideration, since **overloaded towers** or those with little concern for weight and wind load can present a danger to even veteran crew climbers.

What areas do you need to pay attention to in regards to weight and wind load? Access our **new white paper** ***Technical Keys to Successful Network Modernization: Weight and Wind Load*** to find out. We talk about antennas, cables, mounts and specially designed structural supports. The good news is that there are many **very good solutions** that address weight and wind load factors inherently and holistically, as a complete system.