



All personnel whose work requires them to be on or under any elevated structure such as a telescope, antenna, wind tower, water tank or other similar structure are required to wear hard hats or other approved head protection if there is someone working above. All visitors are to conform to this rule or remove themselves from the hazard.

No one is to be at or on a telescope unless they have permission from the Telescope Operator on duty. When there is more than one operator present, permission should be obtained from the Operations Manager or Site Manager. Special precautions must be observed if it is necessary to move the telescope when someone is on or near it. In this event, there must be a qualified operator at the controls at all times the telescope is in motion. The person on the telescope must be provided with communications to the operator at all times. If the telescope is remotely operated, the operator shall communicate orally with other persons on the structure before starting the movement of the telescope. Anyone planning to be on the telescope structure when it is in motion shall be advised before climbing, as to the danger areas around the drives, and should know the location of all emergency stop switches. He or she shall also follow all safety rules such as wearing proper safety harnesses with appropriate tie-off points, and utilization of other personal protective equipment that may be called for.

When telescopes have work platforms that are located or can be moved to more than four feet above floor level, said platforms shall have guardrails around all open sides. Further, when these platforms are movable in an up/down motion, all possible pinch points shall be guarded.

No one shall work on the telescope drives or control systems where dangerous voltages exist, or on electronic gear or drive gears without first informing the operator on duty and having appropriate lock-out tagout locks in place. The telescope operator shall if necessary, stop any unsafe operation of this nature.

Except when absolutely necessary, no one is to be on a telescope or dome in adverse weather conditions such as, rain, snow, sleet, high winds, etc. Some personnel will have to climb under these conditions, in order to check snow and ice loads. Steel and aluminum structures are slippery when wet, and care should be taken when climbing in these conditions. In all cases where climbing is done in adverse weather conditions, the climber is to be tied off in a proper manner and there is to be two persons or at least an open communication line to someone within a close proximity to help.

In the event that any personnel "freeze," or are injured on a telescope, antenna or other structure, notify the telescope operator immediately and/or call for emergency help. If at all possible, the person in need of aid should be secured to the structure until help arrives.

No loose materials, tools or equipment are to be left on any telescope or other structures at any time for any reason.



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At telescopes or other structures where it is common to have overhead workers on a frequent basis, a flashing or revolving light should be installed to warn persons coming into the area to wear safety hard hats and to proceed with caution. An alternative is for maintenance workers who frequently work on ladders or overhead platforms to carry with them small, portable flashing lights to set up when they are working at heights. Signs placed in the path at the point of entry into a space where there are overhead workers or cranes in operation is also acceptable.

The telescope operator on duty has full authority to enforce these regulations, as well as other Safe Practice regulations such as Lock-out Tagout, Confined Space Rules, etc. They have the authority to stop any activity at the telescope that in their opinion, is dangerous to personnel or the equipment. This is to assure that only competent personnel work at jobs on or around the telescope, that the telescope operator is always fully informed when personnel are working, and that reasonable safety precautions are taken. The operator's responsibility and authority are not limited to these regulations alone. They shall impose any additional safety measures they deem necessary under any particular circumstance.

If there is any doubt as to the safety of any activity, the telescope operator shall stop that activity and consult with the Operations Manager or Site Manager.

For additional information and the official University of Arizona documentation, please go to:
<https://risk.arizona.edu/occupational-safety/fall-prevention-and-protection>