



Forest Fire Lookout Association – New York Division
P.O. Box 2317 – Scotia, New York 12302

Bill Starr, State Director
Former NYS Forest Fire Observer

TO: To all members performing volunteer restoration work on fire towers.

FROM: Bill Starr, State Director

RE: Work Site Safety – To be posted at all FFLA – AANR restoration sites

DATE: October 19, 2008

I recently witnessed restoration work being performed on a fire tower which had people working simultaneously on multiple levels of the fire tower. While the work was being performed a piece of hardware was accidentally dropped which nearly landed upon the head of a person working on a lower level of the fire tower. If this item landed on this gentleman's head he would have been seriously injured.

For 15 years I have worked on commercial construction sites as a Union Journeyman Electrician and job site safety is taken quite seriously in the trades. Too many good men and women have sustained serious injuries when simple safety procedures were not followed.

From this day forward the Forest Fire Lookout Association - NY will insist that all people performing FFLA - AANR restoration work on a fire tower must follow the safety procedures listed below.

We all have a love and desire to see our fire towers saved and re-opened for public enjoyment and many of us wish to follow up on our labor of love by greeting the public at these fire towers once the restoration work is complete. Therefore these procedures are to be considered as permanent mandatory rules. Any deviation of these rules will not be tolerated.

1. Each participant is expected to arrive for work with a hard hat, leather gloves and safety glasses.
2. Whenever work is being performed where the risk of falling debris, hardware, tools or building materials is present all workers shall wear their hard hat.
3. When a worker is cutting or drilling metal with a battery or power tool that person shall wear safety glasses.
4. When performing brush clearing, trail maintenance and grounds keeping work each worker shall wear leather work gloves.
5. Safety glasses, leather work gloves and a hard hat shall be worn by any person performing demolition work.
6. Whenever thunder is heard or lightning is seen all workers shall evacuate to a building or their vehicle until such time as the threat has passed by.
7. With the exception of the stairway and landings no work shall be performed on the superstructure of a fire tower without prior clearance from the NYS-DEC.