

## Fw: Objection to Martin Rd. Tower

From: Planning Board (planningboard@town.buckland.ma.us)

To:



Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 02:21 PM EDT

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**From:** Jonathan Mirin <jonathan@ptco.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022 12:59 PM

**To:** Planning Board <PlanningBoard@town.buckland.ma.us>; Zoning Board of Appeals <zoning@town.buckland.ma.us>

**Subject:** Objection to Martin Rd. Tower

Dear Planning Board and Zoning Board Members,

Please deny the Vertex Tower application. Upper Buckland is a treasure in the Hilltowns with a rich history. Our theatre company has collaborated over the years with the Mary Lyon Foundation and written a song performed by local young people inspired by Robert Strong Woodward's life. We can do better than place a 150 foot tower sticking above the hillside. Vertex has not conducted a balloon test that makes any sense to anyone who wants to make an informed decision about how the tower will impact them by flying the balloon at two different heights and then obfuscating that fact at the last public hearing by talking about the wind, etc.. This alone is enough to send them back for another try.

Again, a 150' cell tower looming above our Massachusetts' designated Scenic Byway is not consistent with the rural character of our community.

Other reasons this is an inappropriate site:

- Fire risk: <https://www.ourwebofinconvenienttruths.com/fires-and-collapses/>
- Property owners in the vicinity of the tower will experience property value loss according to a variety of studies: <https://ehtrust.org/cell-phone-towers-lower-property-values-documentation-research/>

The applicants propagation maps do not prove a gap in coverage. The only proof of a gap in coverage accepted in court and by the FCC are dropped call logs, ie, hard data. Anyone can generate whatever type of propagation maps they want in the safety of their office. You are within your rights to deny this application based on this lack of proof, particularly given that they are ineligible to apply. They are not a licensed carrier as required by your by-laws.

Finally, many residents of Buckland whom have not recovered financially from the pandemic do not have the resources to hire a lawyer to represent them and they should not have to. This is why the applicant needs to be a carrier - - who wants to pay a lot of money to fight a "maybe"? Consequently, I am attaching the Memorandum of Opposition from a group of abutters in Ashfield which has relevant photos of cell tower fires and a letter from a local realtor re: property values. This is all relevant to the application before you and thank you for including these photos, fire information and realtors letter in the hearing docket.

Thank you for your service to the community,

Jonathan Mirin  
Charlemont  
[Piti Théâtre Company](#)

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.



Exhibits in Opposition\_compressed.pdf  
2.7MB

TOWN OF ASHFIELD  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

-----X  
In the Matter of the Application of:

**AT&T Mobility New England,  
By Centerline Communications, LL,**

**EXHIBITS IN  
OPPOSITION**

Application for Special Permit and Variance

Premises: 2003 Conway Road  
Ashfield, MA

Map ID: 8-5 Lot 10  
Book: 3089  
Page: 133

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**EXHIBITS IN OPPOSITION**

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Curtis, 884 Murray Road, Ashfield, MA 01330  
Matthew D. McGuire, 828 Murray Road, Ashfield, MA 01330  
Dr. Mingke Wang, 828 Murray Road, Ashfield, MA 01330  
Tracey Baptiste, 837 Murray Road, Ashfield, MA 01330  
Christopher J. O'Leary, 837 Murray Road, Ashfield, MA 01330  
Nat Smith, 282 Emmet Road, PO Box 164, Ashfield MA 01330

## **Exhibit List**

- A Adverse Aesthetic Impact Letters
- B Real Estate Professional Opinion Letters
- C Images of Cell Tower Fires
- D Articles regarding Cell Tower Fires

# **EXHIBIT A**

828 Murray Road  
Ashfield, MA 01330  
11/21/20

Ashfield, MA Planning Board  
PO Box 560  
Ashfield, MA 01330

To the Members of the Planning Board,

My name is Matt McGuire. My wife and children and I moved to Ashfield in the past year, and I'm sorry not to have had the occasion in that time to make any of your acquaintances—but as we know, it's been a peculiar year. We live at 828 Murray Road—the large white house once occupied by the doctor the road was named for. It's a beautiful piece of land, and we have greatly enjoyed settling in to it, and to receiving the warmth of the town, even under these difficult circumstances. It is also, alas, among the places in Ashfield that will be most profoundly affected by the cell phone tower construction proposed at 2003 Conway Road, which is the purpose of my letter.

I can't begin to tell you how devastating the news of this potential development has been to us. It is the first thing on my mind when I wake up, and my days are diminished by the anxiety I feel that our beautiful, pastoral home will be destroyed by the specter of rampant technology. Since moving here, every morning when I get up with the kids I take a moment to admire the sunrise out the picture window in our kitchen. Since receiving the news that a tower might be erected right in that view, I find myself wondering how many unimpeded sunrises are left before that view is irretrievably destroyed.

Our family moved here from New York City, but I am a native of Western Massachusetts—growing up in Worthington, and later Florence. I have long planned to move back here with my family, and Ashfield was always the town we had hoped to land in. It has always struck me as something of the “crown jewel of the hill towns”—for the warmth of its people and comfortable coexistence of natives and newcomers, but above all for its unspoiled natural beauty, which I hope you will agree is its greatest asset. And I am of the opinion that the view from Murray Road is among the very nicest the town has to offer.

When we started looking for homes last winter, this was among the first we looked at, and its many assets—its view chief among them—made us fall in love with it. We moved in the spring, just in advance of the pandemic, and you can imagine what relief we felt, feeling that we had arrived at home—a good, secure place to raise our family—just as a darkness was settling over the world. But the news of this tower looming over us feels as though it yanks away that feeling of security and homecoming. We certainly wouldn't have bought this house had we known what was being planned, and our ability to comfortably remain here feels suddenly in question.

I feel especially pained because my mother had long hoped we would move back to the area so she could be close to her grandchildren, but she died before that could happen. We are in the process of selling her house in Northampton, and have taken stones from her yard to arrange as a memorial spot for her up here. My favorite spot on our property is the beautiful hedge of lilacs that closes in our magical, historic sunken garden. As my mother so loved lilacs, that was the spot I had in mind for her memorial. But if a hideous metal tower lurks above it, spoiling that scene, I will clearly have to make other plans.

But of course, it is for us, the living, and not just the memory of my mother, that I am most concerned. My children love to play under the huge, beautiful maple tree along the road. If the tower is built, our every moment of seeing them there—every family photograph of the scene—will be darkened by the tower in the background. Any gathering of friends we might have had on the lovely patio outside our dining room—or in our dining room, for that matter—will feel similarly intruded upon. And on and on. Our whole lives in this lovely spot have been called into question.

Above and beyond the sense of ruin that this proposal brings to our family, though, I believe that we as a town owe it to posterity to maintain an area that has been enjoyed for so long largely as it has been. Our beautiful sunken garden, and even some of the plants within it, go back to the time that Dr. Murray and his family lived here, and transformed an old farmhouse into the great country estate it became. More recently, a number of townsfolk I have talked to fondly remember playing on the grounds as children. This land is, more than merely “our property,” an important piece of the town’s legacy. And in no one’s memory was there a large metal pole looming in the near distance.

And, indeed, the legacy of the spot continues into the present. One of the joys of living here is the steady stream of walkers and cyclists enjoying the view along Murray Road. Many are our neighbors, for whom the walk seems to be an integral part of their evening routines. And beyond them is a large volume of hikers and cyclists, enjoying our road as scenic route to the nearby Bullitt Reservation. Nary a person goes by who doesn’t say something on the order of “quite a view you’ve got here!” A census worker came to our house and said she had lived all her life within fifteen minutes of this spot, but never had any idea that a place this beautiful existed right here. And I would propose that these sorts of things matter. That they mean something to the area, and to the town. Unspoiled areas of this sort are special, and it does our town credit to preserve them for future generations to enjoy as much as people have for centuries before.

I appreciate your taking the time to read my concerns, and I look forward to getting to know you all under happier circumstances in the future.

Sincerely,



Matthew D. McGuire

Tracey Baptiste  
837 Murray Road  
Ashfield, MA 01330  
November 23, 2020

Planning Board  
P.O. Box 560  
Ashfield, MA 01330

Dear Planning Board Members,

Two and a half short months ago, I moved to the red hilltop farmhouse property at 837 Murray Road. Doing so was the fulfillment of a long-held dream of moving back to Western MA, in what we find to be the most picturesque and tranquil of places, which would become my and eventually my son's permanent home, as well as the backdrop from which my farmer son could create a diversified, community orientated business including farm-based educational and recreational activities and agri-tourism opportunities. The guiding principle underlying our mutual vision was to find one precious landscape, not only to secure and enjoy for our lifetimes, but over which to become stewards, permanently protecting and sharing with our community now and for future generations.

This vision first began nearly three decades ago when my young son and I frequented the hilltowns staying at the Chesterfield home of a family friend. It further developed over a decade ago when my son's career experience and interest in food service pivoted into a serious interest in farming and solidified five years ago when we began a serious search for the right property. That search crystalized leading us to primarily focus on our preferred town of Ashfield for its unique farm/forest pastoral beauty, rich cultural, artistic and historic events and traditions and support of preserving its agricultural legacy. Even more precisely, we were drawn to this pristine hilltop spot on Murray Road which we coincidentally unsuccessfully attempted to purchase over three years ago and had ever since found nothing comparable. We were ecstatic when the opportunity arose once more, and we finally purchased and moved to this idyllic spot.

Just two short weeks ago (perhaps the lack of notice to me was due to the fact that documents submitted from AT&T still list the former owner, Zachery Virgilio of Holyoke, as the owner of my land—a not insignificant oversight needing correction), amidst the activity of continuing to settle in our new home, I was informed by our neighbor about the proposed request to erect at the edge of our property an imposing 120 foot cell tower. It is difficult to express how devastating this news has been and the anxiety and suffering it has caused us. The proposed location is on the side of the property owner's hill facing our home, on which the proposed tower would be in full view from our



Planning Board

November 23, 2020

Page 2

and our neighbor's properties and by the many daily walkers, runners, bikers, motorcyclists and motorists who so clearly enjoy and benefit from the tranquil views from Murray Road. If allowed, this massive structure would spoil, not only the interior views from nearly every window of our home and every rear facing window of our farm structures, including the massive and awe-inspiring four story barn, cabin, other outbuildings, and unique elevated areas all of which we have had creative business plans for, but also would dominate and destroy the exterior views from **nearly every square foot of our gorgeous 30 acre property**. Should this variance be approved, overriding the town's carefully crafted bylaws which prohibit such a large eyesore beyond a height of 80 feet to intrude upon our town/neighborhood's unique cultural and rural atmosphere, it would have devastating personal effects both financially and emotionally for our family, with the loss of years of hard work and planning for our dream, which at now approaching sixty and forty years of age respectively, from which I and my son would likely never recover. The enjoyment of this place by ourselves and our community and all we hoped to create and offer would be forever lost.

Up until this late date in this variance request process, the information and messaging appears to have been strongly influenced by the AT&T proposal claims. I respectfully ask the planning board members to pay close attention to whether the claims of the communication needs of and benefits to the community truly exist as described in the proposal and would be most appropriately remedied by this proposal at hand or whether recent technological advances obviate the need offering different solutions. I, for example, enjoy significantly better cellular service at my home here in Ashfield than I did in my home near Boston simply by connecting to wifi through the affordably priced, excellent internet service now offered here in Ashfield through Whip City Fiber.

In either case, I implore the board to reject the irresponsible placement of this proposed cell tower location and instead only approve a plan at whatever height and possible tower location would best meet the communication needs of the community while not so drastically and permanently altering the lives and precious land resources of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracey Baptiste', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracey Baptiste

Planning Board  
Town of Ashfield  
Ashfield, MA.  
01330  
November 22 2020

I moved to Ashfield 27 years ago when I bought the old Murray place on Murray Rd. But even then I was not new to Ashfield having, for many years sold my handmade candles in the town hall during Fall Festival since the early 70's. I came here by design. I grew up in the country and the country never left me. Ashfield and Murray Rd. was the perfect place for me to land and raise my children— in the country— with the beautiful land and views that surrounded the Murray place.

That is threatened now. The proposed 120 foot cell tower would become my primary view when I was out working in my blueberries and raspberries, when I mowed my lawn or brush hogged my field, when I picked asparagus or harvested Paw-Paws and apples. It would be inescapable, it would dominate.

I arrived to live in Ashfield at fifty with a wife, a four year old and a new baby. This is where I wanted to raise my family. I'm now pushing eighty, and while I could no longer take care of the beautiful Murray estate and sold it three years back, I never left because I was so attached. I built a small home as others have done in similar circumstances next door where I now live, the beauty still surrounding me.

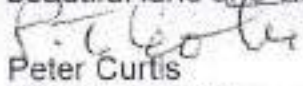
That is now threatened. My new neighbors and I are faced, quite literally, with a monster of an imposing presence in the form of a 120 foot— quite likely to be 140 foot legally if the planning board approves the 120 foot structure. It will be in our face, as well as the base structure on which it sits which could have gone on the other side of the hill where the land owner making the money could look at it. Not only will it become our primary view, we will also bear a huge financial burden. Our home values will drop. Elsewhere this loss has been professionally measured somewhere around 15-20%. It will be much more difficult to sell our homes. Nobody wants a cell tower with lots of transmitters in their face. So it's not just my dream that will suffer, but my financial security as well.

Consider this: Think of us here on Murray Road as being, along with Spruce Corner, the only other cell tower in town, as being the tip of the spear that will hunt down and destroy other neighborhoods in Ashfield. Topography demands it. The cell signals can't go through hills. Cell towers will be "needed everywhere in Ashfield if this technology is used for communication. It won't be just a few people "over there somewhere" that will be affected. All of Ashfield will be looking at these towers. Money is so cheap now to borrow, and the profits I understand

by selling space on these towers so great that more coming would be a certainty if we don't object. It will change who we are and what we have loved . A few years ago we faced a different threat with the pipeline. We came together. We defeated it.

There are other technologies. Whip city fiber is just now installing the last Ashfield homes that wanted fast, clear and dependable communication coverage. It did not require altering out beautiful hills and view. Let's build on that.

Turn the spear around and stab this proposal in the heart. Let's preserve our beautiful land and views.



Peter Curtis

884 Murray Rd.

Ashfield, MA. 01330

Petah.curtis@gmail.com

Christopher J. O'Leary  
837 Murray Rd  
Ashfield, MA, 01330

11/22/20

To the Ashfield Planning Board:

I am writing this letter to voice my strong opposition to the proposed AT&T Cell Tower and colocation site at 2003 Conway Rd, in Ashfield, MA.

I was born in Northampton, and have lived in the Pioneer Valley for most of my life. As such, I have a deep love for the natural beauty of this valley and its foothills. For the past 10 years, I have dedicated my life to my dream of having a small diversified organic farm here in Western Massachusetts. I did this by working for on local farms, and seeking out educational opportunities across the country, until I had the knowledge and skill required to ultimately start my own small vegetable farm on a couple of acres a friend's land in Chesterfield.

My mother, Tracey Baptiste, recently purchased the property at 837 Murray Rd, in Ashfield, MA. This property directly abuts the property at 2003 Conway Rd., the proposed site of the tower, and lies within 500 ft. of the proposed tower. The tower would stand less than 2000 ft. from the house on Murray Rd.

For years, my mother and I have been searching for property in the picturesque hill towns of Western Massachusetts. We wanted a property that she could retire to, where I could continue expanding my small farm, and that would also be suitable for the pursuit of diversified agri/eco-tourism-based opportunities as a means of supporting the farm, myself, and my mother. It would become my home as well, where I would take care of my mother as she grew old, as I grew old there myself.

The years we have spent searching were full of stress and disappointment, sacrifice and regret, as deals fell through, or were revealed to be un-realistic. We actually attempted purchasing the property at 837 Murray Rd. two previous times, without success. When my mother again brought up the possibility of purchasing this property for a third time, I had already all but given up, as the years of stress and disappointment had become too much for me. But we both loved this property so much, we had to give it one last try.

Then, in September of 2020, all the years and all the struggles finally became worth it, as my mother signed the purchase and sale for 837 Murray Rd. We finally had our picturesque paradise! Less than two month later, we were notified of the plans for the tower by a neighbor...

From the beginning of our search, a crucial requirement for whatever property we ended up getting was physical beauty. Not just of the property itself, but of the surrounding landscape, and the views of nature. This requirement was based not solely on personal aesthetic and peace of mind, but on a deep love for nature, and a drive to preserve its beauty.

Additionally, this requirement was based my own dream, and plan, to have a diversified organic farm with agri/eco-tourism aspects, which could include renting parts of the property for horses, or farm-to-table events, for educational purposes like workshops, or for B&B, retreats, theatre, arts and music, etc. A large barn on the property, which has many windows facing the proposed site of the tower, also has potential to generate income to support the farm. All of these pursuits will be severely negatively impacted by the proposed tower, as it would completely impose upon the natural beauty and

character of the pastoral, rolling hills of the quaint countryside, a primary draw for any prospective renter or client.

Throughout the strenuous, months-long process of selling my mother's previous house, moving all her possessions into and back out of storage, and finally closing on Murray Rd., neither of us were informed or knew about the proposed site and tower. Had we been aware, we would not have pursued the purchase of the property, as a cell tower in the middle of this otherwise precious view would not have met our crucial requirement of beauty, for both personal and financial reasons, as stated.

Indeed, the proposed tower would be visible from every facing window of our house and barn, and from virtually every foot of our property. Because of the height, proximity, and location, it would be looming, literally towering over our property, all the time. It would be a dominating feature of the landscape from the beginning of Murry Rd. and Hill Rd., continuing South past our property line, a view that is also enjoyed by many other members of the community.

If this tower were constructed it would hinder the use of our land and would taint the view which we thought we were purchasing with our property. It would effect many other members of our community as well, and it would truly be devastating to us.

This proposed tower and colocation site belongs in a remote area, away from houses, or in an already industrialized area, or on a roadside. It does not belong in a small, picturesque, rural, neighborhood. Accordingly, I request that the proposed site for this tower be moved to a more suitable location.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christopher J. O'Leary  
837 Murray Rd. Ashfield, MA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. O'Leary', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

607 Beldingville Road  
Ashfield, MA 01330

November 24, 2020

To the Town of Ashfield Planning Board Members:

I am writing to voice my opposition to the cell tower proposed for 2003 Conway Road/Route 116 in Ashfield. I believe this tower is contrary to the town's own Zoning Bylaws, which state that telecommunication facilities "are to be regulated so as to minimize the number of such facilities, as well as to minimize their adverse visual impact" and to "preserve the pre-existing character of neighborhoods, especially in rural areas and on agricultural lands adjacent to large scale industrial and commercial facilities." I walk from our home on Beldingville Road to Murray Road on almost a daily basis, in large part due to its magnificent, bucolic views. I was quite shocked to see the balloon demonstration on the horizon a few weeks ago, and after learning what its purpose was, began to investigate the proposed cell tower.

It is my understanding that in considering the special permit application, the Zoning Board must be convinced that the benefits outweigh the detriments. As I understand it, there are few advantages and many drawbacks to the proposed tower, including:

- Limited coverage and service – only a small number of households will gain coverage, relative to the extent of damage to the view and to natural resources;
- Establishment of a precedent for the construction of additional towers, resulting in the unsightly proliferation of towers throughout town;
- Duplication of services – there have been faulty claims made that this tower would expand coverage for emergency services; Ashfield is served by a regional network of cellular coverage for police, fire, and ambulance;
- Undue burden on town resources – increasing numbers of cell towers increase the risk for raging fires that could not be handled by our volunteer firefighters and limited equipment.

While I strongly recognize the need for improved cell coverage in our town, I feel the proposed tower will do little to accomplish this goal, while destroying one of the most beautiful vistas in town. Many of us chose to live in Ashfield because of the beauty and serenity of the landscape. Surely most residents would agree that this and potentially multiple towers dotting our landscape would ruin the look and feel of our town.

Finally, before granting this permit, I would further ask the Planning Board and other town leaders to question the need for cell towers altogether and to explore alternatives, such as Wi-Fi calling and other new technologies.

Thank you for your consideration of my position and for your service to our town.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Castleman, Ph.D.

From:

Matthew Verson Vegetation Management and Ecological Landscaping  
508 Kennedy Rd.  
Leeds, MA. 01053  
413-320-8890

To:

Ashfield MA. Planning Board  
PO Box 560  
Ashfield, MA. 01330

First; thank you for your time and service to your community.

I have been consulting and working for Mingke Wang and Matthew McGuire since they made their landing onto Murray Hill last spring. I agreed to work for the McGuire/Wangs because they made clear their desire to maintain the traditional character of the grounds and property. They were interested in what I offer as management for control of invasive species and also restoration carpentry. Their interest in a traditional aesthetic was what drew them to Murray Hill, and it is also what drew me to them as clients.

The formal sunken garden on the northeastern side of the yard was one of the main concerns of my clients, as they regard it as both a meditation garden, and a memorial site for their families' recently deceased. I have spent much time working there, even going so far as to consult with a local mason on how to maintain the stone walls and arched entrance. It would be extremely sad to have gone through the generations of work to create such a space, only to have the view marred by a cellular communication tower.

I am aware that we all use cellular communication towers, but it should not fall so directly into the lives of those who choose to live in Ashfield precisely because of its agrarian charms and undeveloped nature.

Thank you for your time reading this,

Matthew Verson

 11/24/20

828 Murray Road  
Ashfield, MA 01330  
11/21/20

Ashfield, MA Planning Board  
PO Box 560  
Ashfield, MA 01330

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

My name is Dr. Mingke Wang, and I am among the newer residents in town. Our family moved to 828 Murray Road this spring, in order to raise our children in the part of Massachusetts their father came from, and where their grandfather and other relatives still live. Although I am new to living here, I have known and loved Ashfield for a long time. We have made an annual pilgrimage to the Ashfield Fall Festival for years, and our children, Charlotte and Catherine, have attended Red Gate Farm for the past few summers. We were saddened that neither of those things were possible this year due to COVID-19, but we had expected to enjoy them for many years in the future.

But now we are unsure if we can continue calling Ashfield our home, as the proposed building of a huge cellphone tower across the way threatens to make our beautiful new home feel uninviting and like a place we may not want to live. Of course, it will also drive down the value of our property, so selling it won't be easy either. I am so upset about this, and would ask the members of the planning board to please consider carefully before you allow such a special place to be destroyed.

Much like the doctor that our road was named for, I am a surgeon from New York. It was with some reluctance that I was willing to move out to the country, but I was willing to do so because it meant so much to my husband, Matt. My one insistence was that if we were going to move away from the city I have called home for so long, I needed a view—something to fill my heart with its beauty every day. And we found such a place—the perfect place—only to find now that that one thing I really wanted might be taken away from us. Because I have been unable to work during the pandemic, I have come to enjoy unexpected aspects of country living—picking berries and fruit from the bushes and trees in our yard, and making jam in our kitchen. Every part of these routines will be diminished by this cell phone tower in my view. All of the friends I haven't been able to invite to stay at our place might not ever get to see it as it was, but with an ugly monstrosity lurking over us instead.

As a doctor, I have taken note of the allegedly improved emergency services they promise this tower will bring. It is even more important to me as a mother, because one of our daughters has several life threatening allergies and has spent too many hours of her young life in an emergency



room. So if it can be proven, with hard data, that response times are improved and lives are saved by such technologies, I would have to consider that. But I would ask that the board do its due diligence in collecting such data, rather than simply assuming that it would be a good thing. Is it something the town emergency services can even use? And speaking of emergency services, my understanding is that these cell phone towers catch on fire more often than you'd think. Is it really wise to put one up on a wooded hill, given that risk? Would the fire department be able to get up there in time to prevent more widespread damage to the area, including the houses around it? I don't know the answers to these questions, but I sincerely hope that satisfactory answers are obtained before such a tower is allowed to be built.

I also can't help but wonder if the benefits such a tower are alleged to provide are actually worth destroying a beautiful part of our town for. When we first moved here, the internet connection was awful—we lived with it, but it was certainly an adjustment. But the town did a great thing by installing fibre optic capacity for the town, making us feel as connected as we need to be. (Good job!) We can also use that network in and around our house for using our cell phones. So I don't understand why it would be necessary now to build a hideous tower, in this pristine location, at a height that exceeds the town by-laws. I don't know what the future of these technologies are, but it seems likely to me that some other way of doing this might well be on the near horizon. What if by the time the tower is built, it is already obsolete, or soon will be? Is it worth permanently scarring the natural beauty of our town just so that a small handful of people can have slightly better cell phone reception for a few years? Even understanding as I do the importance of being able to stay connected, I think the answer is clearly no. At minimum, I would hope that such a tower could be kept within the existing 80 foot limit, which would provide as much good as a taller tower while limiting the terrible impact.

I know that we are new in town, and maybe our opinions don't count for much. But I would ask you, from the bottom of my heart, to please consider the negative effects of putting up such a tower for this area as a whole, as well as to our family. We are here, and we want to call Ashfield our home, for many years to come. But this proposed tower runs contrary to all of the good feelings that brought us to your town, and we ask that you please consider not letting it happen in its proposed form.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mingke Wang, M.D.

607 Beldingville Road  
Ashfield, MA 01330

November 24, 2020

To the Members of the Ashfield Planning Board:

I oppose the cell tower proposed for Route 116 in South Ashfield. There are many reasons to be in opposition to this tower, but I will focus on one. I believe that at this point, the proposed addition to cell phone service is completely redundant. The Town just spent millions of dollars on a fiber optic network through Whip City Fiber. Every household in town, including the police and fire departments, can be on this service. That means everyone can have wifi calling, and it also includes regular telephone service for an additional \$12 a month. There is no reason to expand cell phone service, which will only serve a limited few households on Route 116 when fiber optic is available.

Furthermore, the proposed tower is contrary to the town's own Zoning Bylaws, which state that telecommunication facilities "are to be regulated so as to minimize the number of such facilities, as well as to minimize their adverse visual impact" and to "preserve the pre-existing character of neighborhoods, especially in rural areas and on agricultural lands adjacent to large scale industrial and commercial facilities."

Sincerely,

Peter Corens

732 Beldingville Road  
Ashfield, MA 01330

Ashfield, MA Planning Board  
PO Box 560  
Ashfield, MA 01330

To the Planning Board:

We live on Beldingville Rd, and thus are not contiguous to the land on which the proposed AT&T tower would be built. However, over the years we have become regular walkers/ hikers/ snowshoe-ers on Murray Rd and in the area east of Murray Rd. and on Mount Owen (from which we would see the tower). Thus, like those who would live in the Murray Rd/Hill Rd neighborhood, we regard the proposed tower as a blight on one of Ashfield's loveliest locations. The "red balloon" mock-up showed how severe the blight would be.

From the materials we have seen, there is no indication that the proposed tower meets needs which cannot be otherwise addressed. Also — and just as important — there is the prospect that technological developments may meet such needs. We hope the Planning Board will guard against the tower being built "on spec" — in other words, for demand that will be created once the tower is in place.

Ashfield shouldn't wait until after it's gone to find what it has lost.

Sincerely,

William and Q Holmes

Pauline and John MacLean  
188 HILL RD  
Ashfield, MA 01330-9731

November 21, 2020

Dear Members of the Ashfield Planning Board,

We have been residents of South Ashfield for over twenty-one years.

South Ashfield, east of Williamsburg Road and west to Conway town line, is an extraordinarily beautiful, bucolic valley bordered by mature timbered ridges in all compass directions. Bisecting the valley is Murray Road, a narrow country lane that wanders north to south from ridge to ridge and that is a destination for walkers, runners and bikers who come for the uninterrupted beauty and unspoiled vistas of the Berkshires to the south and East.

It is in the heart of this pristine setting that the Ashfield Planning Board is considering a variance for a 120-foot cell tower.

Before addressing specific concerns about the due process in determining this variance, we would like to remind the Planning Board of specific language in the Board's by-laws, which ostensibly guide the Board:

- "The primary purposes of these by-laws are to promote and enhance the Town's rural atmosphere and character;
- To encourage the appropriate use of land;
- To conserve the physical characteristics of neighborhoods;
- To promote the conservation of natural resources and to prevent pollution of the environment."

The uniquely "rural atmosphere and character" of South Ashfield has been established for centuries and preserved in the last decade by the great generosity of the Bullitt family. The southern timbered ridges of the valley are unspoiled because today the Trustees' Bullitt Reservation in Ashfield, Massachusetts is a "262 acre parcel of rolling fields and deep forests. Once a poor farm, and then later part of the country retreat of first U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union William C. Bullitt and his daughter Ann, this eye-pleasing blend of fields and farm buildings,

mixed woodlands, and streams forms a crucial link in almost 3,000 acres of protected land. Deer and bear are among the wildlife emerging from the forest to feed and frolic, while the fields nurture orchids and butterflies. This ecologically rich property also shelters state-protected species. Poland Brook and its feeder streams provide habitat for a variety of fish and freshwater insects and plants."

Five owners - three of whom, prior to the siting of the cell tower, were considering gifting the development rights to their undeveloped acreage to the local land trust - mostly control the northern ridges of the valley.

For all the above stated reasons, we respectfully ask the Planning Board to not grant a variance for the proposed 120-foot tower. In considering any cell tower in South Ashfield we also respectfully request that the Planning Board implement the following in terms due diligence.

- 1) A single balloon blowing 120 feet in the wind provides neither the comparison to an 80-foot tower nor the massing of an actual 120-foot tower.
- 2) To determine the relative impact between a 120-foot tower and an 80-foot tower, the Planning Board should provide the community with renderings of the actual towers at maximum capacity as envisioned by the vender.
- 3) That the Planning Board stipulates exactly what are the state and county mandates for cell service in Ashfield.
- 4) That the Planning Board stipulates exactly what are the town mandates for cell service in Ashfield.
- 5) That the Planning Board articulates the rationale for the Planning Board's approval of a variance.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration,

Sincerely yours,

*Pauline MacLean (POLLY)*

*John MacLean*

Pauline and John MacLean

November 22nd, 2020

2131 W. 5 St  
Brooklyn NY 11223

Town of Ashfield Planning Board  
412 Main Street  
Ashfield, MA 01330

RE: Cell Tower Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the current proposal of erecting a 120ft cellular monopole tower requested by AT&T Mobility at Conway Road.

I am a close friend of the McGuire family who currently resides at 828 Murray Road. I had the pleasure of visiting them in late August of this year at their new home.

As a person who had lived in the city all her life, the change of scenery to a place like Ashfield was something that I value a lot. Especially during this difficult time with the pandemic and everyone need to limit their activities outside their homes the scenic open spaces offer by Ashfield offer us a reminder of what we should cherish most, and that is nature. The lack of high rise buildings, beautiful views of greenery, open views of fields, and the close proximity with nature are all things that we should value and protect to the best of our abilities.

When I heard that there is this proposition to build a cellular tower in Ashfield, I feel that I need to express my concern regarding this matter.

Per the submitted "Proposed findings per Town of Ashfield Zoning bylaw Criteria" by AT&T to the town of Ashfield, concerns were mentioned about how this tower will impact on the visualization of the surrounding area. I think the height impact will make an enormous difference since the requested height for this tower is 120ft which is not the standard allowable height of 80ft. On the report it was mentioned that AT&T found that the height difference impact is minimum. I think this is untrue. A 40ft difference is a huge difference. The general height of one of floor in a building is approximately 14ft. With the 40ft increase in height that is approximately 3 more stories to a building. For AT&T to state that the height increase has minimal impact is irresponsible and incorrect. Also, according to one of the service analysis report the cellular service coverage area with a tower of 80ft vs 120ft does not really demonstrate much significant differ-

ence. Then why is AT&T putting in a request to have the height increase other than to maximize their profit and benefits without regard to the preservation of the scenic views and habitats of the community which they promise to commit to.

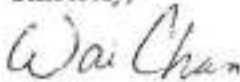
The proposal also address the concern that the requested cellular structure should blend in to the surrounding environment and minimize the impact it has to the scenery. As I read through the proposal, we often just put our focus and attention on the monopole of the cellular structure since it is the tallest and most noticeable. However, we should not forget about all the ancillary structures that need to come along with this cellular tower in order for it to be functional. There are significant underground work, outdoor pad, AC unit, and barb wire fences along the structure to enclose additional structures. Just the idea of putting barb wires along the project and its surrounding areas is against the idea of minimize impact to the area. With the installation of these barb wire fences, the area will just end up looking like a prison facility since it is the first thing we usually associate barb wire surrounded area with. According to one of the reports it was also stated that 2 acres of forest need to be converted for this project. I think we should all be concern and be mindful that this purposed cellular tower project is not a just simple project of erecting a monopole tower and has minimum impact to the surrounding area.

As mentioned on the report, multiple national park trails, CT DEP critical habitat, and NHESP priority of habitats of rare species nearby are present in close proximity to the proposed cellular tower. These are all concerning factors to consider since this tower may have long term affects on the associated habitat and surrounding environment. It was agreed by the proposed construction company to keep the surround environment and vegetation to the best of the extend. However, the "best of extend" to a company who is seeking to make a profit maybe different than what the "best of extend" is to the people who resides in the this community who are the ones having to live with the impact. This can be seen when the town address concern on page 5 point 3 on the proposal about minimizing topographic change and other impacts and AT&T did not gave straight reply that they will comply but to just state regulations by the NEPA. This does not demonstrate their willingness to commit to the preservation of the area involved.

On the proposed report it was also stated by AT&T that the cellular tower will be use as a host facility for other telecommunication companies to colocate so cellular service gap in the area will be sufficiently fulfilled. As shown on exhibit MA5006 on the proposal, there are currently 12 cellular sites in the area with the closest located just 2.9 mils away. I feel that this amount of cellular towers in the nearby area already offer more than sufficient amount of coverage that is needed in the area. With the recent introduction of Broadband service to Ashfield and the availability of Wifi calling or Wifi assist calling the coverage that is available is more than sufficient for this community. Another concern about colocation of other telecommunication companies is that if the services are being relocate to this new purposed tower, then what about the old existing towers in the area? If these towers are abandon then will they be properly remove? If not, then it will just be a waste to leave existing working structures to deteriorate without maintenance and care which can be a hazard to the community. Also, according to the current proposal, AT&T stated that there are no current colocation contract with any of the existing carriers. If

there is no existing interest from other carriers for colocation, then wouldn't building this tower for the service of a single cellular carrier be a waste and worth more trouble than it is worth? I have always remembered and carry on my life with this saying "Don't do unto others what you don't want others do unto you". I hope the members of the planning council of Ashfield can look into your hearts and consciences and ask yourself if this is what you want for this town; and to make the right decision for the future of this town which we all love and cherish so dearly. It is the footprint we leave today that will make the difference for the future to come. As I have made my points of view clear, for the preservation of the scenic nature views in Ashfield and the well being of the community please reject the proposed building of this cellular tower by AT&T.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wai Chan".

Wai M. Chan



# **EXHIBIT B**

# MAPLE and MAIN REALTY<sup>LLC</sup>

28 North Maple Street Northampton, MA 01062 413 584 2900 [mapleandmainrealty.com](http://mapleandmainrealty.com)

To whom it may concern,

My name is Susan Mayhew and I have been a licensed real estate agent in the Western Massachusetts area for seven years. Among my successful real estate transactions in the past year, I served as the buyer's agent for Matthew McGuire and family in their purchase of 828 Murray Road in Ashfield, MA in March 2020. Matt is both an old family friend, and a valued client, so it was my great pleasure to help him and his family find a home that spoke to their desire to live in a pristine, unspoiled part of his home state.

I was therefore distressed, both personally and professionally, to learn more recently that a proposed cell phone tower may be built in such a place as to affect the view and ambient feeling of their property. Based on my research and experience working with clients, it is my professional opinion that a cell phone tower within view of his property would reduce the value of his property by approximately fifteen to twenty percent. Furthermore, even at such a reduced price, it would be a much less desirable property for future sales. A recent survey, for example, reveals that 94% of potential homebuyers are "less interested and would pay less" for a property located near a cell tower.

Although I have less personal experience with the properties of Matt's neighbors at 837 Murray Road and 884 Murray Road, I am familiar enough with their placement in relation to the proposed tower to also offer the opinion that these properties would similarly suffer the same fifteen to twenty percent loss in value and decreased marketability.

Please consider the negative impact this would have on area homeowners, both current and future.

Sincerely,



Susan Mayhew  
License #009530072  
Maple and Main Realty, LLC  
Florence, MA 01062  
413-230-9357  
[susan@mapleandmainrealty.com](mailto:susan@mapleandmainrealty.com)

# EXHIBIT C



Wellesley, MA January 2009



Philadelphia, PA June 2013



Montgomery MD June 2015



Greenville TN November 2014



Lilburn, GA December 2011



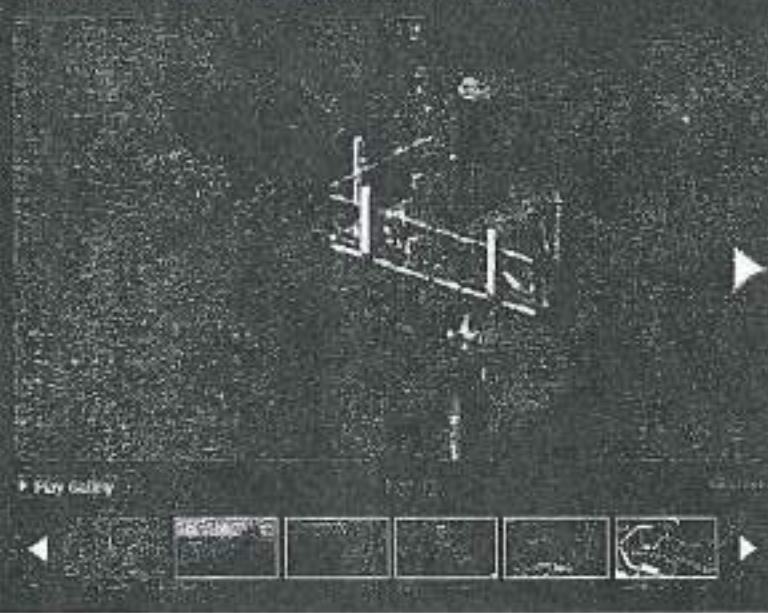


Newport, VA June 2015

# **EXHIBIT D**

### Cell Phone Tower Catches Fire, Threatens Collapse

June 21, 2011: A cell phone tower caught fire in Bensalem, Bucks County, Pa.



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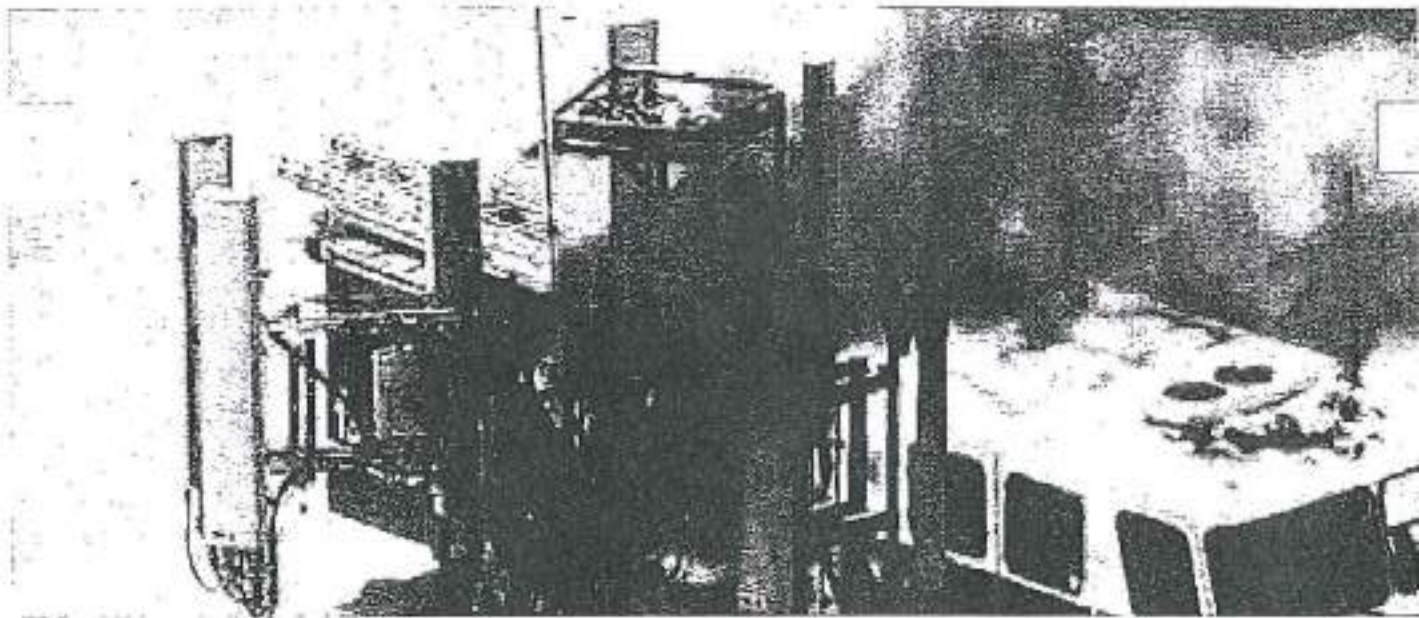
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http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/breaking/Cell-Phone-Tower-Fire-Collapse-Bucks-County-212501221.html#

## Cellphone tower catches fire in Sanford

Updated: Aug 21, 2013 - 4:15 PM



**SANFORD, Fla.** - A cellphone tower caught fire Wednesday in Seminole County, according to fire rescue officials.

The fire happened on Historic Goldsboro Boulevard while cell tower crews were doing welding work, officials said.

Officials said there were four employees working on the tower at the time of the fire, and one off-site.

"They (workers) got down before we even got fire crews on the scene," said Sanford Fire Chief Tim Robles.

They were adding shaft and phalanges, fire officials said.

The workers realized they had to get down fast. They didn't have time to lower the bucket so they secured it and got down on their own.

Businesses were evacuated and roads within a 170-foot radius of the 127-foot tower were closed.

The city fire marshal said the heat made the metal expand, causing the tower to lean southward and said there was concern at one point that the tower would fall.

Once the fire was watered down and the metal cooled, it amazingly righted itself, the fire marshal said.

[https://www.gwinnettdaily.com/archive/cell-tower-fire-closes-rockbridge-road-evacuates-day-care/article\\_c799bdd9-1162-52a6-8cd7-7784653883ae.html](https://www.gwinnettdaily.com/archive/cell-tower-fire-closes-rockbridge-road-evacuates-day-care/article_c799bdd9-1162-52a6-8cd7-7784653883ae.html)

## Cell tower fire closes Rockbridge Road, evacuates day care

Josh Green Dec 1, 2011



Firefighters work to extinguish a fire at a cell phone tower at Rockbridge and Lilburn-Stone Mountain roads near Lilburn on Friday.

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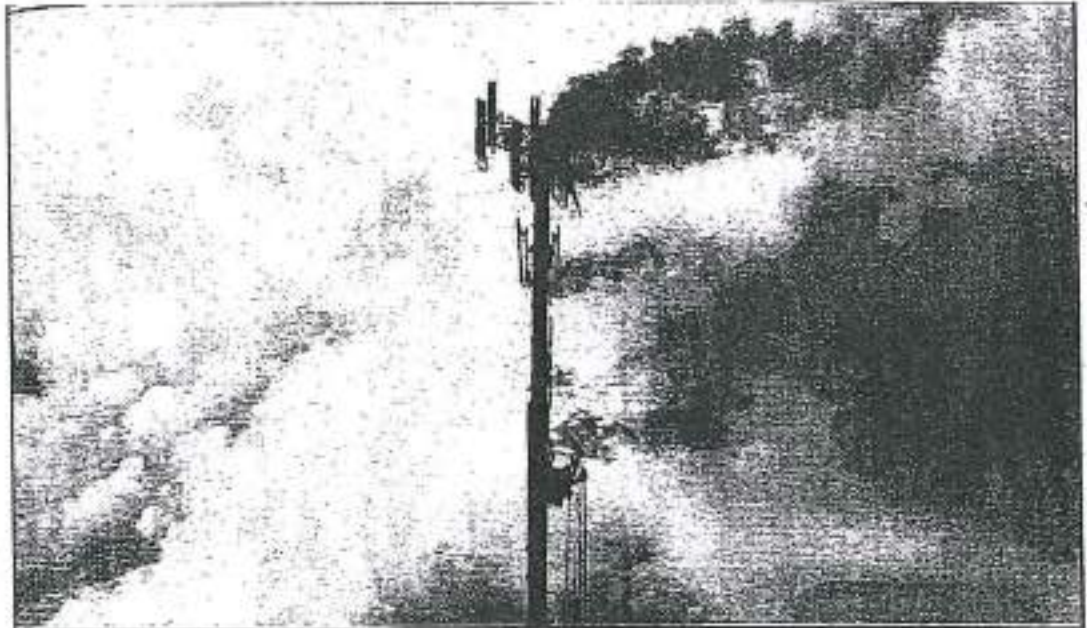
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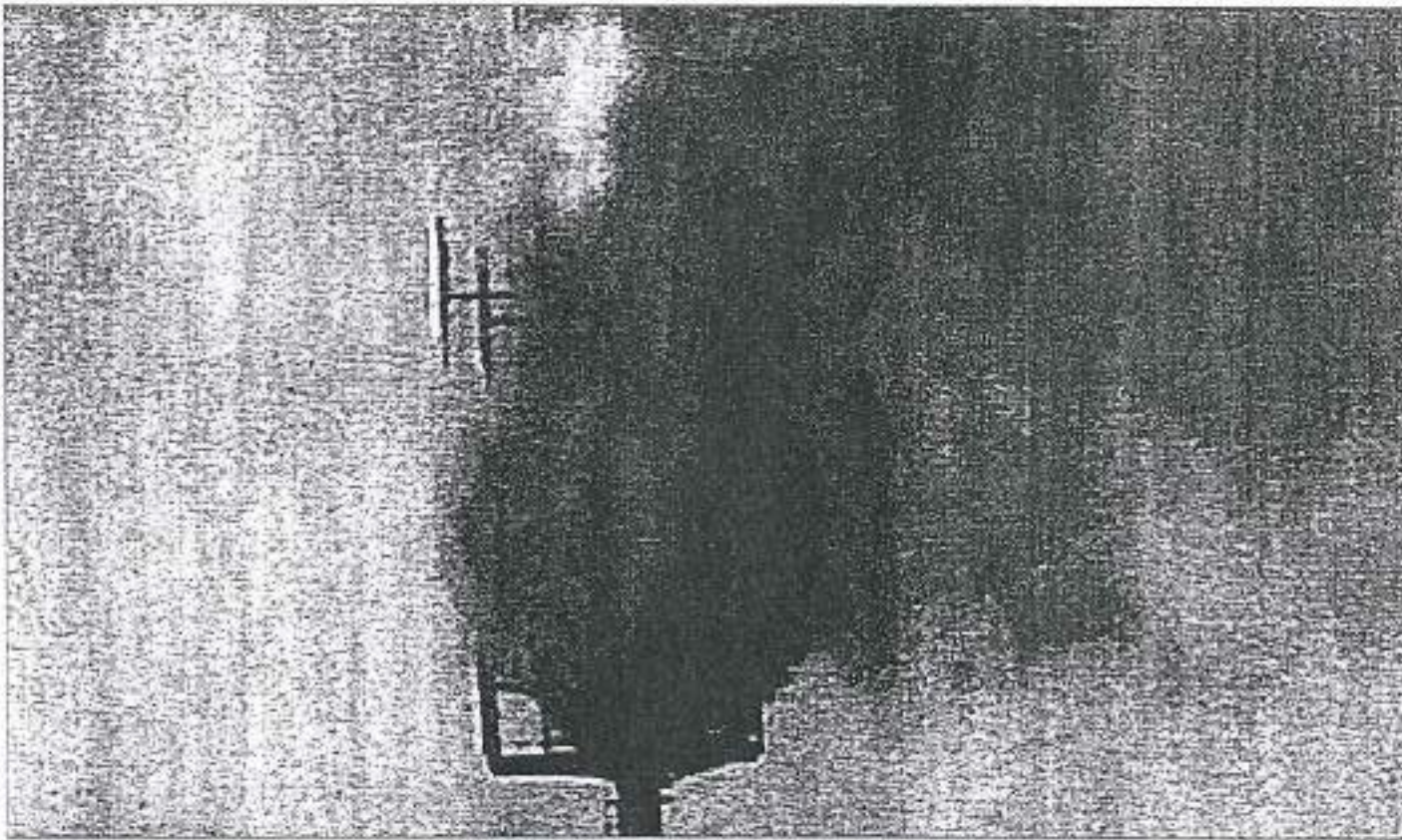
PHOTO GALLERY

## Cell tower fire near Thurston High sends up smoky plume

by News Staff

Saturday, September 13th 2014

AA



28

[VIEW ALL PHOTOS](#)

# NJ Cell Tower Leans Dangerously After Cables Catch Fire: Cops

Published May 16, 2013 at 11:59 AM



A cell phone tower caught fire in New Jersey Thursday morning, prompting the structure to lean dangerously to its side, police said.

Police said the cell phone tower tilted five or six feet to one side after its cables caught fire.

The tower is on the edge of the fire department's academy in Middletown.

The leaning tower is not close to any buildings, any authorities are trying to determine if they can upright it or it needs to be removed.

-Brian Thompson contributed to this report

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3 [video] Missing NYC Girl Found Safe in England; Man Arrested

4 [video] These Are NYC's Most Expensive Zip Codes, Study Shows

5 [video] 16-Year-Old Swedish Climate Activist Docks in NYC After Crossing Atlantic



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## UPDATED: Cell Tower May Collapse After Fire

Tom Sofield | June 21, 2013

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Friday, 1:48 p.m.:

Residents of the Bensalem Woods complex remain out of their homes due to safety concerns, Bensalem police say.







PECO crews were called to the scene to de-energize electric service to the tower.

As of 1:45 p.m., the tower is still standing, but it is leaning over the Public Works facility.

Thackeray Crane representatives are at the scene to see what can be done with the leaning tower.

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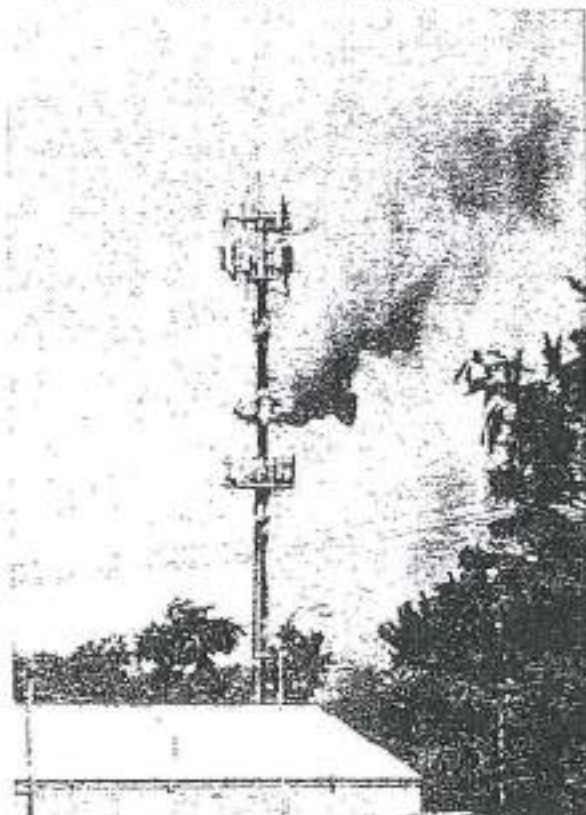
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Credit: Twitter.com/Mz\_Erica7801



Credit: John Buczek

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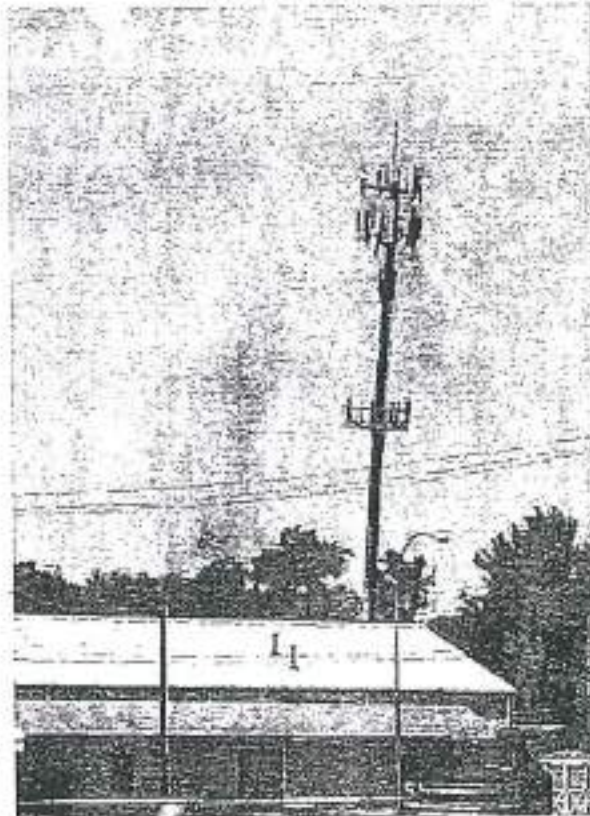
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Credit: Neal K Sanderson/Submitted

More to follow.

**Original story:**

A cell phone tower off Byberry Road at the Bensalem Township Public Works Complex is reported to be on fire and may collapse, according to reports.

The tower is leaning and officials could be heard on the scanner order evacuations for the Bensalem Township complex and nearby Bensalem Woods housing complex.



A photo of the fire.  
Credit: Twitter.com/Bensalem\_Fire

According to NBC 10, the township's Public Works manager confirmed the tower may fall on their facility.

Photos from the scene show smoke and flames billowing from the tower. A fire official said the tower was "well involved."

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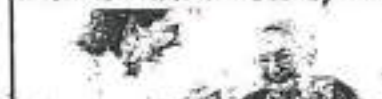
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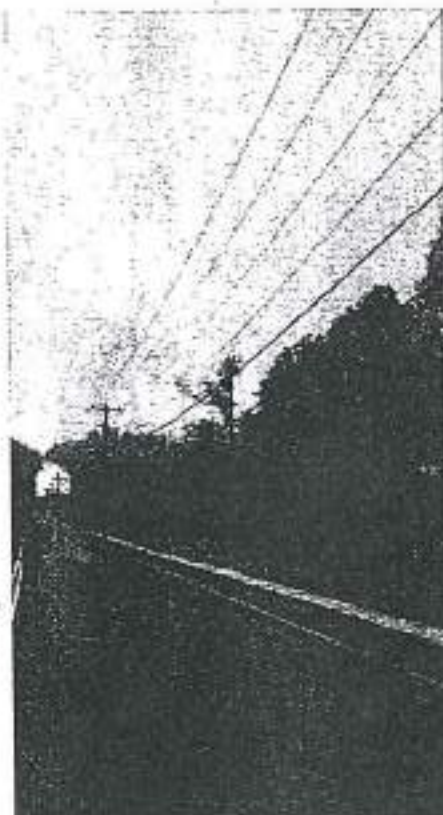
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Firefighters were heard on the radio staging crews in preparation for a possible collapse.

Emergency crews responded to the scene just after 11 a.m.

Bensalem Public Safety Director Fred Harran said on 6abc's noon newscast that crews were working on the tower around the time the fire is believed to have started.



Credit: Chris Doster

**Alleged Arsonist  
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June 1, 2013  
In "Cops, Courts and  
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**UPDATED: SWAT  
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In "Cops, Courts and  
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In "Government"

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September 12 @ 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm

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Bucks County Event  
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September 18 @ 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Toastmasters Meeting

September 26 @ 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm

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### Tom Sofield

Tom Sofield has covered news in Bucks County for seven years for both newspaper and online publications. Tom was honored at the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association Foundation's Keystone Press Awards for his coverage of President Obama's visit to Falls Township and his reporting has been featured



around the globe. When he's not covering news in the area, Tom enjoys checking out the newest restaurants and bars, exploring forgotten places of industry in the area, going to local parks and spending time with his friends and family. If there's one thing you should know about Tom, he is a local news junkie through and through. Email: [tom@levittownnow.com](mailto:tom@levittownnow.com) Phone: 215-431-1001  
 → [Tom Sofield](#)

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## Cell tower fire closes U.S. 95 exit ramp at Jones Boulevard

By **William D'Urso** 

Published Monday, Feb. 4, 2013 | 2:10 p.m.

Updated Monday, Feb. 4, 2013 | 4:20 p.m.

A fire on a Verizon Communications Inc. cell phone tower has forced authorities to shut down the U.S. 95 exit and on-ramps to Jones Boulevard.

The fire started about 11:30 a.m. when welders were working to reinforce the structure with additional metal plates, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue spokesman Tim Szymanski said.

Szymanski said the ramps were closed because the tower is leaning toward NV Energy power lines.

He said workers were using a crane to take the tower down in sections that was to take about an hour. He said power in the area was shut down while the work is under way.

The ramp remains closed, and it is unclear when traffic will be allowed through, Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Loy Hixson said.

Workers from NV Energy and Verizon are on scene, but authorities did not know if power to homes or cellphone coverage had been affected.

Welders were working on tower when the fire started, Szymanski said.



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# Spark ignites cell tower fire

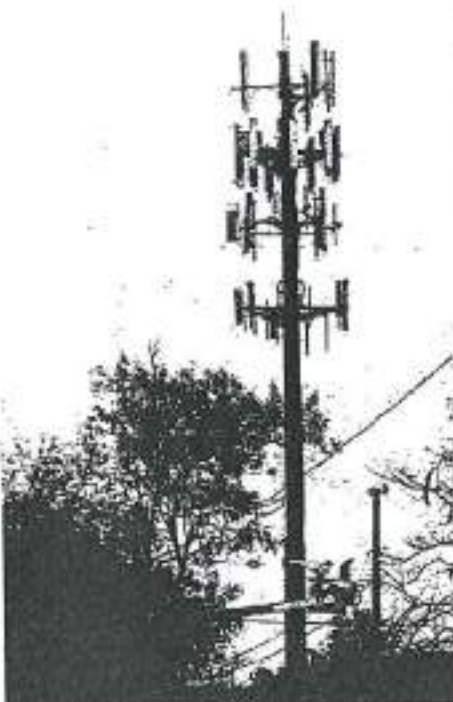
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Brad Doherty/The Brownsville Herald

Posted: Monday, January 6, 2014 10:37 pm

The Brownsville Herald

A welder's torch sparked a fire to a cellphone tower late Monday morning in Brownsville, Fire Chief Lanny Perez said.

Brownsville police cordoned off the area around the tower near East Polk, East Taylor and East 26th streets shortly after 11 a.m.

Sparks from the welding ignited insulation on the wires, Perez said.

There weren't any visible flames around noon, but smoke could be seen periodically escaping from the body of the tower as residents watched.

Brownsville Public Utilities Board spokesman Ryan Greenfold said workers cut power to the high-voltage antenna so the fire department could control the fire.

Some residents lost power but it was restored by 1 p.m., Greenfold said.

The antenna will be disconnected until it is replaced, he said.

A Brownsville Public Utilities Board employee in a bucket truck maneuvers into position to disconnect electrical lines near a cell phone tower at 26th and East Taylor streets that had been on fire. The Brownsville Fire Department said welding sparks ignited the fire.

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### This Week's Circulars

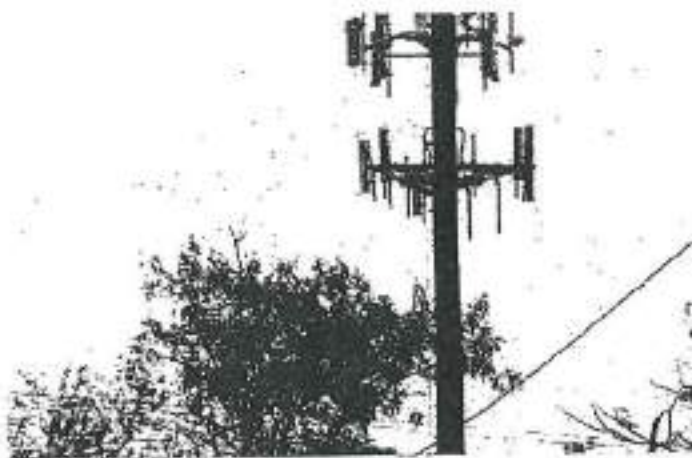
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## Cell Tower News: Cell tower catches fire; Crown Castle operates as REIT

By Jarad Matula on JANUARY 10, 2014

Cell Tower News, Towers, Wireless




Welcome to our weekly collection of all the top cell tower news stories, where we cover global, national, regional, local and distributed antenna system stories. It's the first full week back to work of the new year and it seems that news is happening everywhere. This week's edition is jam-packed with more stories than any previous cell tower news update. A cell tower fire broke out in Texas; Solid and CommScope continue to up their DAS game; and Crown Castle is now operating as a real estate investment trust. But what exactly does that mean? For this answer and more, click on the news stories below and enjoy:

### National/global news:

- A spark from a welder's torch caused a cell tower to catch on fire in Brownsville, Texas.
- As of Jan. 1, Crown Castle is now operating as a REIT.
- T-Mobile US and Verizon Wireless will swap spectrum in a deal valued at \$3.3 billion.
- The Federal Communications Commission looks to update RF exposure rules.
- Who's to blame? A year after a tragic tower climber fall, no one is willing to take the responsibility. Read this fascinating article that examines each party.
- AGI posted an article on why this will be a strong year for smaller cell tower companies.
- Vertical Consultants will be participating in a Strafford webinar on Jan. 9 to discuss rooftop cell tower leases.
- Inside Towers explains how recent studies show that broadband and tower jobs are driving employment in this country.

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# Welding Sparked Cell Phone Tower Fire: Official

Officials figured out what caused the fire that left a cell phone tower leaning, ready to collapse

By Karen Araiza

Published Jun 21, 2013 at 11:46 AM | Updated at 3:54 PM EDT on Jun 21, 2013



Police tell us two welders were working on the tower when flames erupted almost 80 feet in the air. NBC10's Deanna Durante reports with the latest. (Published Friday, June 21, 2013)

			
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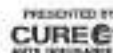
Welders were working 70 feet in the air on a cell phone tower in Bensalem, Bucks County when sparks set off an intense fire ten feet above them. They tried to put it out, but ended up having to race down to get help.

"They rappelled quickly... and called 911," said Fred Haman, Public Safety Director for the township.

The fire spread quickly and left the tower, which stands nearly 10 stories high, leaning over precariously. Authorities were afraid gravity would win out and it would come crashing down on top of the township's Public Works Building. But there are also homes and an apartment complex nearby. Anyone who could see the tower burning, could also see it bending and swaying from the heat.

"If the tower was to come down instruments on top of the towers could have become projectiles, exploded on crash and shrapnel may have injured kids playing

### THIS AFTERNOON'S TRENDING STORIES




-  **Video** | **Legendary Philadelphia Broadcaster Gene Crane Dies at 99**
-  **'MythBusters' Jessi Combs Dead After 'Horrific Accident'**
-  **Plan Ahead for Weekend Closure of Pa. Turnpike's NE Ext.**
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# NJ Cell Tower Leans Dangerously After Cables Catch Fire: Cops

Published May 15, 2013 at 11:39 AM



A cell phone tower caught fire in New Jersey Thursday morning, prompting the structure to lean dangerously to its side, police said.

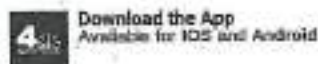
Police said the cell phone tower tilted five or six feet to one side after its cables caught fire.

The tower is on the edge of the fire department's academy in Middletown.

The leaning tower is not close to any buildings, any authorities are trying to determine if they can upright it or it needs to be removed.

-Brian Thompson contributed to this report

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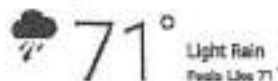
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# Cell phone tower near Heritage High School catches fire

POSTED 1:00 PM, JUNE 16, 2015, BY BECCA MITCHELL, UPDATED AT 04:13PM, JUNE 16, 2015



*This is an archived article and the information in the article may be outdated. Please look at the time stamp on the story to see updated.*

## PHOTO GALLERY



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## Osprey nest, electrical problem sparked Poulsbo cell tower fire

POULSBO — An osprey nest and an electrical malfunction ignited the cell phone tower fire that closed down State Route 305 for 12 hours Monday in the Lemolo area. Kitsap County Deputy Fire Marshal Tina Turner said an electrical malfunction at a lighted beacon on top of the 150-foot tower caught the bird's nest on fire before 4 a.m. Monday. Turner said the birds likely damaged the beacon or its 110-volt power wire while building their nest, contributing to the fire.

By Tad Sooter

Tuesday, June 21, 2011 9:22pm | [NEWS](#) [NORTH KITSAP](#)



An osprey



POULSBO — An osprey nest and an electrical malfunction ignited the cell phone tower fire that closed down State Route 305 for 12 hours Monday in the Lemolo area. Kitsap County Deputy Fire Marshal Tina Turner said an electrical

malfunction at a lighted beacon on top of the 150-foot tower caught the bird's nest on fire before 4 a.m. Monday. Turner said the birds likely damaged the beacon or its 110-volt power wire while building their nest, contributing to the fire.

The fire spread from the top of the tower down through its hollow interior, burning through electrical cable insulation, Poulsbo Fire Battalion Chief Bruce Peterson said. The tower was glowing red nearly to its base when fire crews arrived. Firefighters allowed the fire to burn out on its own.

The tower leaned precariously, raising concern it could fall across the highway. The state Department of Transportation closed both lanes of SR 305 and detoured traffic through Lemolo. Verizon, which operates the tower



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## Cell phone tower to be taken down following fire

NEWS | Dec 02, 2011

By Alexis Stevens, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

NONE — The engineers and owners of a cell phone tower in Gwinnett County that was damaged by fire will begin the process of taking it down Saturday, authorities said.

Fiber optic cable on the tower caught fire Friday afternoon, forcing road closures in the Lilburn area.

A telecommunications company was welding on the 150-foot tower, in the 500 block of Rockbridge Road, when the fire sparked shortly before 3 p.m., according to Capt. Tommy Rutledge with the Gwinnett County Fire Department.

After the fire was extinguished, fighters remained on the scene for several hours and were wetting down the area around the tower in preparation for any falling embers or the possibility of the tower falling, Rutledge said. The tower was leaning slightly and firefighters created a "collapse zone" in the event it falls, he said.

Rockbridge Road was temporarily closed between Arcado Road and Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road while firefighters battle the blaze, according to Cpl. Jake Smith of the Gwinnett County Police Department. Miller Road also was shut down at the intersection of Lilburn-Stone Mountain Road, Smith said.

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A crew was dispatched to the scene to cut the power supply to the tower, Rutledge said.

Five homes and a daycare center were evacuated as a precaution. About 20 children and 10 adults were moved to a parking lot across the street, away from the hazardous area, Rutledge said.

Bethany Lee told the AJC her home was one of those evacuated. She and other neighbors were concerned about the possibility of the tower falling, she said.

"I am amazed that it did not collapse," Lee said. "That was our biggest worry because all of our homes would have been in grave danger."

No injuries were reported.

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### Fire in Pr. George's Cell Phone Tower Extinguished

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By Ruben Castaneda  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Friday, April 14, 2006; 2:42 PM

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Prince George's County firefighters this morning extinguished a fire that broke out in a cell phone tower in Temple Hills where contract workers were applying additional support beams, a fire department spokesman said.

The fire ignited around 11:10 a.m. in the 5300 block of Beech Place, said Mark Brady, chief spokesman for the county fire department. Contract workers were using a welder to apply the support beams, and plastic pipeway inside the tower caught fire, Brady said.

It took county firefighters about a half hour to put out the blaze, Brady said. Firefighter used a 100-foot tower ladder to help extinguish the blaze. Fire and heavy smoke was visible from the top of the tower to about three-quarters of the way down, he said.

*Advertisement* The tower at one point leaned to one side, and about a dozen workers from a nearby waste management company were briefly evacuated, Brady said.

After the tower cooled, it straightened out, Brady said. The tower, owned by the cell phone company Sprint, sustained about \$75,000 in damage, and Sprint officials said they will replace the tower, he said. No injuries were reported.

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## Cell phone tower catches fire in Grandview



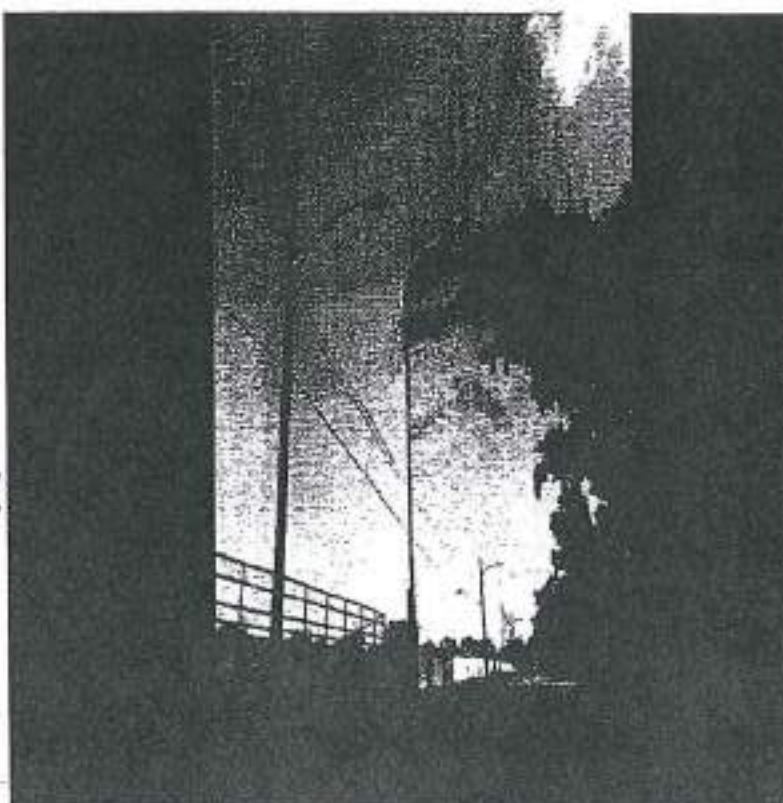
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# FIREHOUSE

HOME | HOME | MARYLAND CELL TOWER DESTROYED BY FIRE

## Maryland Cell Tower Destroyed by Fire

The leaning tower straightened up after it cooled down.

APRIL 14, 2006

Prince George's County firefighters battled a blaze at a cell phone tower in Temple Hills Friday morning.

Units were called to the 5300 block of Beech Place just before 11 a.m. for a 125-foot tower on fire and leaning.

"People see it, and they see this large, humongous metal structure, and it's on fire," Mark Brady, of Prince George's County Fire and EMS. "And the only thing combustible about it is the wiring and the conduit inside of it, and that's exactly what was on fire."

According to the fire department, contractors doing welding work accidentally ignited conduit and wiring inside of the tower shaft. The heat caused the tower to lean, and a waste management company was evacuated.

Authorities said the fire was extinguished in about 35 minutes, and once the tower cooled down, it moved back into a vertical position.

The tower, which is owned by Cingular, was declared a total loss, and the integrity of the tower was compromised, so the tower was scheduled to be dismantled. A mobile tower will be set up until a new permanent structure can be built. Cell phone service may be spotty in the area until the mobile tower is erected.

Damages from the fire are estimated at \$75,000.

Stay with *News4* and *nbc4.com* for more information.

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# Update: Cell tower fire unrelated to Middletown police communication interruption

Posted May 16, 2013



Middletown police are operating their radios on a secondary frequency after a fire at a cell tower on Normandy Road knocked out communications.

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By Ashley Peskoe | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

**MIDDLETOWN** – Authorities have determined the cell tower fire on Normandy Road was unrelated to the police department's main radio channel going down.

The fire, which has since been extinguished, started around 11:20 a.m. on a Normandy Road cell tower that crews were working on, police said.

The Middletown Police Department's main radio frequency went out shortly after, and was originally believed to be caused by the fire. However, police said at around 2:20 p.m. that they determined the department does not have any equipment on the cell tower and that the radio problem is unrelated.

Police are still working to determine what's wrong with the main radio channel and are operating on a secondary channel. The department's phones are also working, police said.

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*Editor's Note: This story was originally published at 12:49 p.m.*

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