



COMMUNICATIONS

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WINTER WEATHER MEANS SILKE CREWS STANDING BY TO ENSURE RECORD RELIABILITY, PUSH-TO-TALK SERVICE

Think the weather down here is cold? Imagine working in wind, ice and snow -- from atop a communications tower! Maintaining the 99.99 and better reliability Silke strives to deliver takes a tremendous amount of work -- especially in the winter.

Thanks to careful planning and the redundancy built into the systems, even when winter weather takes its toll on equipment, users rarely experience an outage. That's because there's always a back-up in place until Silke crews can access the site and make a repair.

Sometimes, just getting to the tower is treacherous. "There's always a road to the tower, but they're not maintained during the winter. You're using a logging road or a fire road in many cases. It can be pretty tough to get up there, but we have the right equipment," says Field Operations Manager David Behrens. "We've already put a lot of miles on our [snowcats](#) this year, with all the snow and storms."

Once on-site, repairs often require an ascent. "Climbing a tower in a blizzard is no fun, but it's what has to happen to maintain our service records," Behrens says. "It's when you have to make intricate connections without your gloves that it's hardest. We are definitely grateful for all our safety training and equipment in those instances."

There's no room for error in these conditions, and no one wants to make a return trip for the same issue. Silke's techs and tower climbers are trained and certified for the conditions, but they claim that the best preparation is "Lots of experience doing the work in better weather conditions. If you've been doing this for years like most of our techs have, the technical part of the job is easy -- it's warming up that takes a bit!" says President Jim Silke.

Silke's technicians make remarkable efforts to keep all communications systems delivering beyond what's promised -- and beyond industry standards. "There's no question our customers appreciate that," says Silke. "And that definitely makes it worthwhile for our push-to-talk [FleetNet network](#) users and those who lease tower services and facilities."

To learn more about Silke's push-to-talk services, contact 855.GO.SILKE or email Debbie@silkecom.com.

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From Towers to Talk