ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRUST

U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER AND WIRELESS FACILITY LAWS

Examples of Ordinances That Protect Community Interests By Regulating Cell Towers and Wireless Antennas

A compilation of laws by Environmental Health Trust

U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER & SMALL CELL LAWS





Every municipality is responsible for adopting its own set of laws governing the placement, design standards, and safety features of wireless telecommunications equipment installed and/or operated by companies like Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Dish, and Crown Castle.

Strong local cell tower laws are important because they can better protect scenic corridors and environmentally-sensitive areas, safeguard public health and safety, preserve historic zones, protect property values, and ensure that residents are notified about pending and approved wireless antenna applications.

Aggressive telecom industry wireless infrastructure deployment plans often fail to consider important community interests.

This resource provides local elected officials and members of the public with examples of community protective legislative policies that have been adopted by municipalities across the United States.

While some states do have streamlining laws that impact their authority in various ways, there are numerous issues that still can be addressed with well considered ordinances.

***DISCLAIMER:** Each municipality adopts slightly different definitions of key terms like 'cell tower,' 'freestanding wireless facility,' and 'wireless antenna.' Further, your state may have adopted a 5G "small cell" streamline bill which could preclude local officials' ability to implement installation setback requirements. This briefing is not legal advice but simply information on various policies nationwide. Also, these ordinances do not necessarily ensure safety or safe levels of radio-frequency (RF), but several do increase the distance between homes and telecommunications network base station antennas that emit RF, which generally could decrease the exposure from such antennas.*

Please review the actual telecommunications ordinance codified by each municipality listed below to understand the true meaning and scope of the enacted legislative language. If you have questions or concerns, email **info@ehtrust.org**, or direct message our team on Facebook **@Environmental Health Trust**.

U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER LAWS





ORDINANCES AIMED AT RETAINING LOCAL CONTROL

Shelburne, MA & **Encinitas, CA:**

Strong purpose statement
Great installation setbacks
Fantastic pre-notification requirements
Extensive radio-frequency radiation testing protocol(s)
Comprehensive design standards
Thorough administrative review process
*Encinitas, CA's ordinance also includes critical fire safety protocols

Top Examples of Strong Installation Setbacks

- **Shelburne, MA**: no wireless antennas within 3,000 feet of schools and within 1,500 feet of homes and no new wireless antennas in residential zones.
- **Copake, NY**: no wireless facility may be within 1,500 feet from homes, schools, churches, or other buildings containing dwelling units.
- **Sallisaw, OK**: no commercial wireless telecommunications towers within 1,500 of homes.
- **Calabasas, CA**: no "Tier 2" wireless telecommunications facilities within 1,000 feet of homes and schools.
- **Bedford, NH**: No wireless antennas within 750 feet from nearest residentially-zoned property.
- **Scarsdale, NY**: No wireless facilities within 500 feet from homes, schools, parks, and houses of worship.

More Ordinances With Strong Installation Setbacks

- **Davis, CA**: no freestanding wireless facilities within 500 feet of residential zone and schools.
- **Westlake Village, CA**: no facilities 500 feet of homes.
- **Randolph, MA**: no wireless antennas 500 feet homes/ businesses.
- **Petaluma, CA**: no "small cell" antennas within 500 feet of homes.
- **Suisin City, CA**: no "small cell" antennas within 500 feet of homes.
- **Contra Costa County, CA**: no new high-visibility facilities or towers within 300 feet of residential zones.
- Ithaca NY

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U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER LAWS

Ordinances With Exemplary Radiofrequency Radiation (RF) Testing Requirements

Scarsdale, NY

- Pre-testing and post-installation testing (within 30 days after transmission begins) to demonstrate actual compliance with FCC radiation emissions guidelines.

Davis, CA:

- Pre-installation RF analysis conducted by state-licensed/registered RF engineer to determine maximum power density of proposed wireless facility at full buildout.
- Pre-installation report estimating cumulative electromagnetic radiation levels and levels surrounding the proposed installation site.
- Post-installation RF report (must be submitted within five days after transmission begins).

Fairfax, CA

- RF testing must be conducted one month post-construction and every year thereafter to verify that actual levels of radiation being emitted by approved facilities, operating alone and in combination with other approved facilities, conform to current FCC radiation emissions limits.

Suisun City, CA:

- Telecom permittee must conduct post-installation RF emissions testing to demonstrate actual compliance with FCC radiation emissions guidelines. During testing, the facility must be operating at maximum power.

Copake, NY:

- Pre-testing of RF emissions and post-testing within 30 days after transmission begins to ensure compliance with FCC emissions limits.
- Balloon tests required within 35 days of application submission (dates and times of the balloon test shall be advertised by the applicant and notice of the test date will be printed in a newspaper of popular circulation).

Great Barrington, MA

- Routine, annual radiofrequency radiation emissions assessments to ensure continued compliance with FCC emissions limits

Dalton Gardens, ID:

- Within 45 days of initial operation of the facility, the permittee must submit written certification by a licensed professional engineer that radiofrequency radiation emissions comply with limits, including cumulative impacts from other nearby facilities.
- If the City has reason to believe that a facility is exceeding allowable FCC radiation emissions limits, then a hearing shall be scheduled before the Planning and Zoning Commission where the owner of the facility and/or facility operator shall be required to show cause why permits issued by City shouldn't be revoked and why no fine should be imposed.





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EXEMPLARY U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER LAWS

NOTICE TO THE COMMUNITY



Strong Pre-Notification Requirements

Dalton Gardens, ID

- 1,500-foot mailed notice for Type II and Type IV applications.
- 300-foot notice forType I and Type II applications.
- Applicant shall post notice on proposed site advising the public of the public hearing.
- Public hearing required for each special permit application.

Scarsdale, NY

- Mailed pre-notification to residents within 1,000 feet of a proposed installation site.
- Notice must be posted at the proposed installation site no more than five feet off the ground for the entire duration that the application is pending a decision.

Calabasas, CA

- Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 1,500 feet of proposed facility & public hearing.

Little Silver, NJ

- Mailed pre-notification to residents within 500 feet of proposed installation site.

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

- Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 500 feet of a proposed installation site.

Baton Rouge, LA

- Mailed pre-notification to residents within 300 feet of the proposed installation site.
- Attach a posted notice (blaze orange placard) at the precise location of the proposed facility within 2 days of submitting application.

PRE-NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EXEMPLARY U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER LAWS

Notable Pre-Notification Requirements

- **Suisun City, CA**: Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 500 feet of the proposed installation site.
- **Town of North Hempstead, NY**: Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 350 feet of proposed installation site.
- **San Diego, CA**: Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 300 feet of proposed installation site (must be less than 1,000 residents within 300-foot radius of proposed site to require mailed notice).
- **Davis, CA**: Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 300 feet of the proposed installation site.
- **Keane, NH**: Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 300 feet of the proposed installation site.
- **Petaluma, CA**: Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 300 feet of proposed installation site for new construction and/or modifications to existing structure.
- City of Walnut Creek, CA: Mailed pre-notification to all residents within 300 feet of proposed installation site.
- **Thornton, CO**:
  - Mailed pre-notification to all properties within 250 feet of the "small cell" facility.
  - Notification must include a copy of the applicant's notification letter, a copy of the notification letter translated to Spanish, and certificates or proof of mailing the letter must be on letterhead of the owner of the small cell facility.
  - The letter must notify property owners of the upcoming installation, type of installation (stand-alone, attachment, etc.), location, and include a sample depiction, photo, or drawing of the installation; a copy of the letter translated to Spanish must also be mailed to property owners.

Most Comprehensive Design Standards for 5G "Small Cell" Facilities:

- **Western Springs, IL**

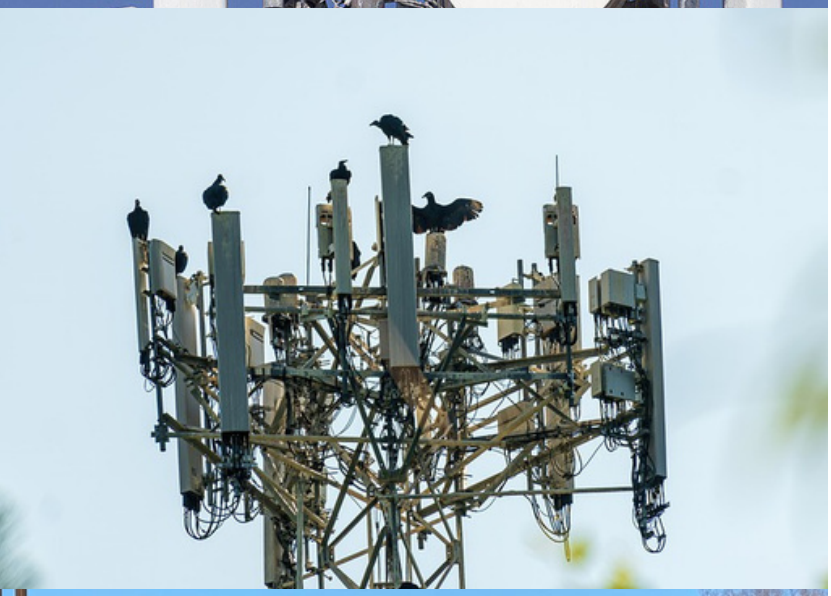




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STRONG U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER LAWS
WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT







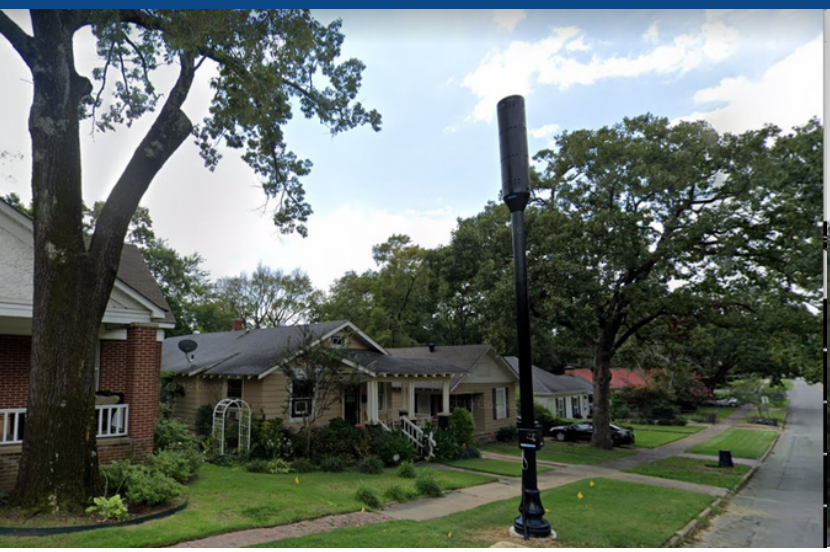
Environmental Impact Assessment Rules

Petaluma, CA:

- All telecommunication facilities shall be sited to minimize the effect on environmental resources.
- No telecommunications facility or related improvements shall be sited so as to create a significant threat to the health or survival of rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species.
- No telecommunications facility shall be sited such that its presence threatens the health or safety of migratory birds.
- Potential adverse impacts upon nearby public use areas such as parks or trails shall be minimized.
- The facility shall comply with all applicable city floodplain, floodway and storm drainage and erosion control regulations.
- Drainage, erosion, and sediment controls shall be required as necessary to abide soil erosion and sedimentation of waterways. Structures and roads on slopes of ten percent or greater shall be avoided. Erosion control measures shall be incorporated for any proposed facility which involves grading or construction near a waterway or on lands with slopes over ten percent. Natural vegetation and topography shall be retained to the extent feasible.
- No telecommunications facility or related improvements shall be sited such that their construction will damage an archaeological site or have an adverse effect on the historic character of a historic feature or site.

STRONG U.S. LOCAL CELL TOWER LAWS

TREE PROTECTIONS IN SITING WIRELESS ANTENNAS





Fairfax, CA

- Prior to issuance of building permit, the telecom applicant shall obtain the Zoning Administrator's approval of a tree protection plan prepared by a certified arborist if the installation of a wireless facility will be located within the canopy of street tree, a protected tree on private property, or within10-foot radius of the tree base.

Washington, DC:

- Standalone "small cell" pole may not be located within 15 feet of tree's protected zone.
- No tree shall be removed, have its protected root zone impacted, and/or pruned to accommodate the installation or functioning of "small cell" infrastructure.
- Standalone poles are prohibited within 15 feet of any open tree planting space.

Denver, CO

- "Small cells" must be at least 15-25 feet from a tree trunk so that no proposed disturbance shall occur within 5 feet of the critical root zone.

Thornton, CO

- Poles shall not be located less than 15 feet or within the drip line of an existing tree, whichever is greater in order to protect the health of the tree.

Thornton, CO

- Poles shall not be located less than 15 feet or within the drip line of an existing tree, whichever is greater in order to protect the health of the tree.

Albemarle County, VA

- The telecom applicant shall submit a tree conservation plan prepared by a certified arborist. The plan shall specify tree protection methods and procedures, identify all existing trees to be removed on the parcel for the installation, operation and maintenance of the facility, and identify all dead and dying trees that are recommended to be removed.
- In approving the plan, the agent may identify additional trees or lands up to 200 feet from the lease area to be included in the plan.

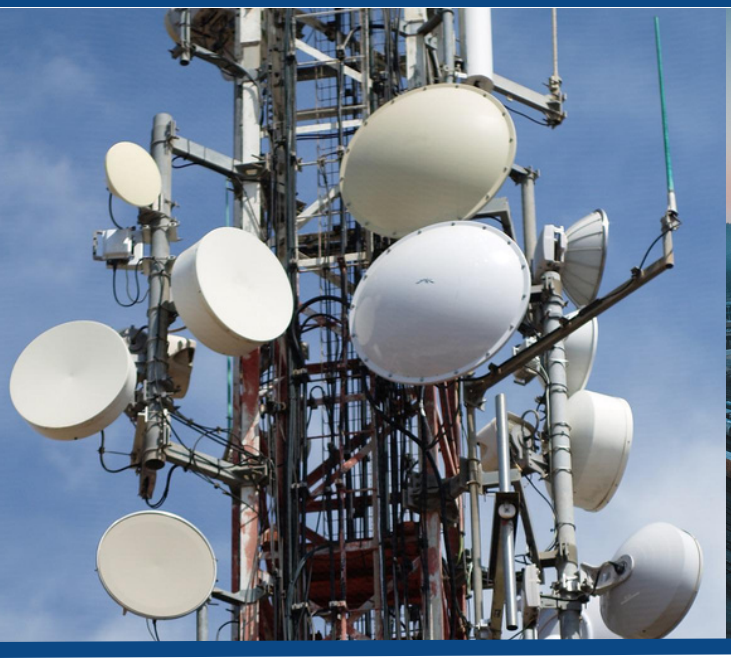
Moscow, ID

- A tree protection plan prepared by a certified arborist must be completed if the installation of a "small cell" wireless telecommunication facility will be located within the canopy of a street tree, or within a 10-foot radius of the base of such a tree.

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5G, CELL TOWERS AND WIRELESS

LEGAL & LIABILITY ISSUES





When a new cell tower is proposed, the first question to ask is: "Do you have insurance for damages from long-term exposure to the radiofrequency radiation (RFR)?"

Usually the answer is "No." Why? Insurance companies rank the risk as "HIGH."

5G and Cell Towers Are an Uninsurable Risk

- Insurers rank wireless, cell tower, and 5G RFR non-ionizing electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation as a “high” risk, comparing the issue to lead and asbestos.
- Most insurance plans have “electromagnetic field exclusions” and do not insure for long-term RFR damages.
- Additionally, some insurance plans will not provide a defense for any supervision instruction or recommendation given *"or which should have been given"* in connection to EMFs.
- Wireless RFR and non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation are defined as a type of “pollution” by wireless companies themselves.
- U.S. mobile operators have been unable to get insurance to cover liabilities related to damages from long-term RFR exposure.
- Wireless companies warn their shareholders of RFR risk but do not warn users of their products, nor do the companies warn the people exposed to emissions from their infrastructure.

This PDF is hyperlinked. For more on legal liability issues go to ehtrust.org

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Cell Tower Companies Warn Shareholders of Risk From Cell Tower Radiation

Why Don't They Warn Families Living Near Cell Towers?

Verizon 10-K Report

"Our wireless business also faces personal injury and wrongful death lawsuits relating to alleged health effects of wireless phones or radio frequency transmitters. We may incur significant expenses in defending these lawsuits. In addition, we may be required to pay significant awards or settlements."

Crown Castle 10-K Report

"We cannot guarantee that claims relating to radio frequency emissions will not arise in the future or that the results of such studies will not be adverse to us...If a connection between radio frequency emissions and possible negative health effects were established, our operations, costs, or revenues may be materially and adversely affected. We currently do not maintain any significant insurance with respect to these matters."

AT&T 10-K Report

"In the wireless area, we also face current and potential litigation relating to alleged adverse health effects on customers or employees who use such technologies including, for example, wireless devices. We may incur significant expenses defending such suits or government charges and may be required to pay amounts or otherwise change our operations in ways that could materially adversely affect our operations or financial results."

T- MOBILE 10-K Report

"Our business could be adversely affected by findings of product liability for health or safety risks from wireless devices and transmission equipment, as well as by changes to regulations or radio frequency emission standards."

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Cell Tower Companies Warn Shareholders of Risk From Cell Tower Radiation

Why Don't They Warn Families Living Near Cell Towers?

American Tower 10-K

"If a scientific study or court decision resulted in a finding that radio frequency emissions pose health risks to consumers, it could negatively impact our tenants and the market for wireless services, which could materially and adversely affect our business, results of operations or financial condition. We do not maintain any significant insurance with respect to these matters."

Nokia 10-K

"Although our products are designed to meet all relevant safety standards and other recommendations and regulatory requirements globally, we cannot guarantee we will not become subject to product liability claims or be held liable for such claims, which could have a material adverse effect on us."

Qualcomm 10-K

"If wireless handsets pose health and safety risks, we may be subject to new regulations, and demand for our products and those of our licensees and customers may decrease."

Ericsson Annual Report

"Any perceived risk or new scientific findings of adverse health effects from mobile communication devices and equipment could adversely affect us through a reduction in sales or through liability claims."

T-Mobile Warns of the Risk of 5G and Lawsuits

The Data on Risk Could Change, Impacting Cash Flow



T-Mobile advertises to the public about going "live" but omits the warnings they give to shareholders regarding 5G, regulatory changes and risk perception.

T-Mobile

T-Mobile 10-K Report 2/2023

"Negative public perception of, and regulations regarding, the perceived health risks relating to 5G networks could undermine market acceptance of our 5G services" (page 13)

"We, along with equipment manufacturers and other carriers, are subject to current and potential future lawsuits **alleging adverse health effects arising from the use of wireless handsets or from wireless transmission equipment such as cell towers."**

"In addition, **the FCC has from time to time gathered data regarding wireless device emissions, and its assessment of the risks associated with using wireless devices may evolve based on its findings.** Any of these allegations or changes in risk assessments could result in customers purchasing fewer devices and wireless services, could result in significant legal and regulatory liability, and could have a material adverse effect on our business, reputation, financial condition, cash flows and operating results." (T- Mobile 10-K Report page 21)


Mobile Telecommunications and Health

Review of the Current Scientific Research in view of Precautionary Health Protection

Commissioned by

T-Mobil
DeTeMobil Deutsche Telekom MobilNet GmbH

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Hannover, April 2000

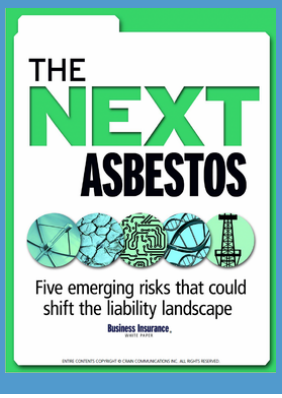
A 2000 Ecolog Institute Report commissioned by T-Mobile and DeTeMobil Deutsche Telekom MobilNet recommended an RF exposure limit 1000x lower than the FCC's current power density limit after reviewing the research on biological effects, including impacts to the immune system, central nervous system, hormones, cancer, neurotransmitters and fertility.

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5G, CELL TOWERS AND WIRELESS

LEGAL & LIABILITY ISSUES SHAREHOLDER WARNINGS



"Some research has shown biological effects from lower -level "non thermal" exposure and people exposed at lower levels have reported headaches, dizziness, nausea, mood disorders, mental slowing and memory loss."
Business Insurance White Paper, The Next Asbestos: Five Emerging Risks That Could Shift the Liability Landscape

Insurance Authorities Rate 5G as "High Risk."
5G mobile networks are classified as a "high," "off-the-leash" risk. "Existing concerns regarding potential negative health effects from electromagnetic fields (EMF) are only likely to increase. An uptick in liability claims could be a potential long-term consequence" and "as the biological effects of EMF in general and 5G in particular are still being debated, potential claims for health impairments may come with a long latency." — Swiss Re Institute (2019)

Insurance Companies Have Electromagnetic Field Exclusions As the Industry Standard
Electromagnetic field exclusions" are clear and common in most insurance companies. It is applied as a market standard. This exclusion serves to exclude cover for illnesses caused by long-term EMF (non-ionizing radiation) exposure." — Complete Markets

"Exclusions: This insurance does not apply to: Bodily injury, personal injury, advertising injury, or property damage arising directly or indirectly out of, resulting from, caused or contributed to by electromagnetic radiation, provided that such loss, cost or expense results from or is contributed to by the hazardous properties of electromagnetic radiation.
— Portland Oregon Public School Insurance (page 30)

Insurance Plans Not Only Exclude EMF Damages, But Some Even Exclude Defending Decision Makers From Actions

"This policy does not apply to and we will not provide a defense for: a. bodily injury... arising out of ... exposure to or contact with electromagnetic radiation... b. costs of abatement .. of EMF" or c. any supervision, instruction, recommendation, warning or advice given or which should have been given in connection with a or b. above."- City of Ann Arbor Michigan Insurance Policy page 14.

Wireless Companies Rank EMF as a Risk with High Impact
"Electro-magnetic signals emitted by mobile devices and base stations may be found to pose health risks, with potential impacts including: changes to national legislation, a reduction in mobile phone usage or litigation." — Vodaphone 2017 Report ranks EMF as a "Principal Risk with "High" impact.

Wireless Companies Warn Shareholder About Risk But Not People Living Near Their Wireless Infrastructure

Crown Castle says:
"We cannot guarantee that claims relating to radio frequency emissions will not arise in the future or that the results of such studies will not be adverse to us...If a connection between radio frequency emissions and possible negative health effects were established, our operations, costs, or revenues may be materially and adversely affected. We currently do not maintain any significant insurance with respect to these matters."

Wireless Companies Define Pollution in Their Own Policies as Including EMFs, Microwaves and Non-ionizing Radiation.

Verizons Total Mobile Protection Plan says: "Pollution" is defined as "any solid, liquid, gaseous, or thermal irritant or contaminant including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acid, alkalis, chemicals, artificially produced electric fields, magnetic field, electromagnetic field, sound waves, microwaves, and all artificially produced ionizing or non-ionizing radiation and/or waste."

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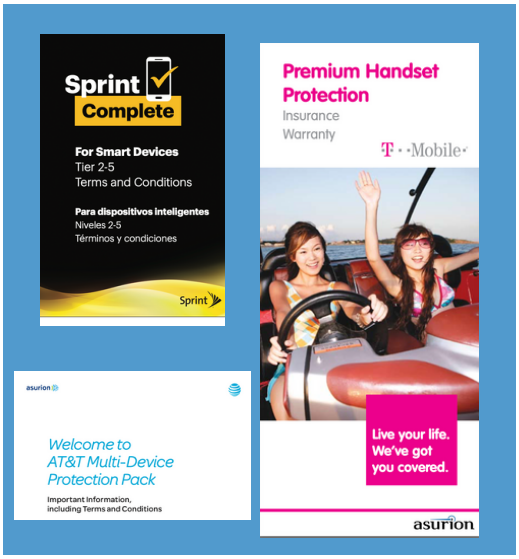
Verizon Total Mobile Protection Plan Defines Non-ionizing Radiation as "Pollution"

16. Pollution

The discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration or escape of pollutants. Pollutants means any solid, liquid, gaseous, or thermal irritant or contaminant including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acid, alkalis, chemicals, artificially produced electric fields, magnetic field, electromagnetic field, sound waves, microwaves, and all artificially produced ionizing or non-ionizing radiation and/or waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed.

AT&T, Sprint and T -Mobile also have similar "pollution" definitions and they refuse to cover damages.

Click on image to view the policy.



Insurance Companies Exclude EMF As Industry Standard

THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION EXCLUSION

This endorsement modifies insurance provided under the following:

GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE PART
PUBLIC RISK GENERAL LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM
LAW ENFORCEMENT COVERAGE PART
LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM
PUBLIC OFFICIALS COVERAGE PART
PUBLIC OFFICIALS LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY COVERAGE PART
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LIABILITY RETAINED LIMIT COVERAGE FORM

The following **Exclusion** is added:

This policy does not apply to and we will not provide a defense for:

a. "Bodily injury," "property damage", "personal and advertising injury", "employee benefits wrongful acts", "personal injury", "law enforcement wrongful acts", "public officiels wrongful acts", "educator's legel wrongful acts", or "employment practices wrongful acts" arising out of, or which result in, the actual, alleged, threatened, perceived, latent, sudden and accidental or incidental exposure to or contact with electromegnetic radiation in any form, from any source.

b. The costs of abatement or mitigation of:

(1) Electromagnetic radiation; or

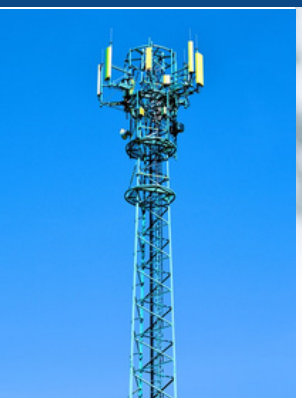
(2) Exposure to electromagnetic rediation.

c. Any supervision, instruction, recommendation, waming or advice given or which should have been given in connection with **a.** or **b.** above.

Electromagnetic radiation includes but is not limited to, magnetic energy, waves, fields or forces generated, produced, transmitted or maintained by the charges, currents, frequencies, energy or forces of electricity that is generated, flowing or otherwise transmitted through or via the medium, methods and equipment designed to generate, produce, distribute, trensport or transmit the electrical charges, currents, frequencies, energy or forces.

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CHILDREN'S VULNERABILITY TO WIRELESS RADIOFREQUENCY (RF) RADIATION





The American Academy of Pediatrics states:

"In recent years, concern has increased about exposure to radio frequency (RF) electromagnetic radiation emitted from cell phones and phone station antennas. An Egyptian study confirmed concerns that living nearby mobile phone base stations increased the risk for developing:

- Headaches
- Memory problems
- Dizziness
- Depression
- Sleep problems

Short-term exposure to these fields in experimental studies have not always shown negative effects, but this does not rule out cumulative damage from these fields, so larger studies over longer periods are needed to help understand who is at risk. In large studies, an association has been observed between symptoms and exposure to these fields in the everyday environment."

–American Academy of Pediatrics
HealthyChildren.org

Cell towers and cell phones emit wireless radiofrequency (RF) radiation.

Children are more vulnerable to RF radiation, just as they are to other environmental exposures. They have proportionately more exposure to RF compared to adults. More importantly, a child's brain is rapidly developing and more sensitive. Even very low exposures in childhood can have serious impacts later in life.

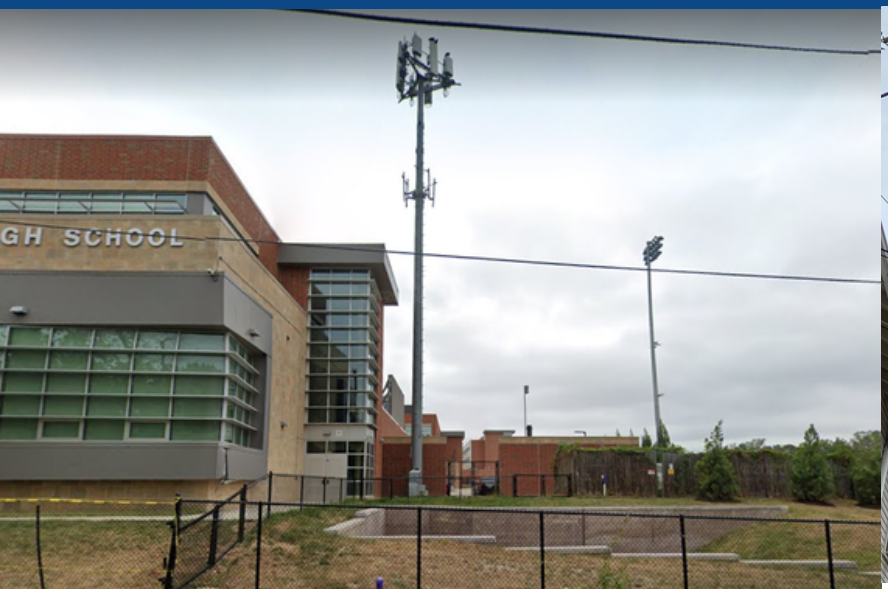
Children absorb higher levels of RF radiation deeper into their brains and bodies because they have:

- Thinner skulls allow RF radiation to move easier into the brain.
- Higher water content in brain tissue which is more conductive to electricity.
- Smaller heads result in a shorter distance for the RF to travel from the skull to critical brain regions important for learning and memory.

Children are more sensitive to RF impacts because:

- Their brains are still developing.
- Children have more active stem cells- a type of cell scientifically found to be uniquely impacted by RF.
- Children will have a longer lifetime of higher exposures, starting from before they are born.

PUBLISHED RESEARCH STUDIES





RESEARCHERS RECOMMEND CELL TOWERS BE DISTANCED AWAY FROM HOMES AND SCHOOLS

The review paper entitled "**Limiting liability with positioning to minimize negative health effects of cellular phone towers**" reviewed the "large and growing body of evidence that human exposure to RFR from cellular phone base stations causes negative health effects." The authors recommend restricting antennas near homes, and restricting antennas within 500 meters of schools and hospitals to protect companies from future liability (**Pearce 2020**).

An **analysis** of 100 studies published in *Environmental Reviews* found approximately 80% showed biological effects near towers. "As a general guideline, cell base stations should not be located less than 1500 ft from the population, and at a height of about 150 ft" (**Levitt 2010**).

A **review** published in the *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health* found people living less than 500 meters from base station antennas had increased adverse neuro-behavioral symptoms and cancer in eight of the ten epidemiological studies (**Khurana 2010**).

A **paper** by human rights experts published in *Environment Science and Policy* documented the accumulating science indicating safety is not assured, and considered the issue within a human rights framework to protect vulnerable populations from environmental pollution. "We conclude that, because scientific knowledge is incomplete, a precautionary approach is better suited to State obligations under international human rights law" (**Roda and Perry 2014**, **PDF**).

CELL TOWERS NEAR SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CELL TOWER SETBACKS

Many communities have policies, ordinances or zoning that ensures cellular antennas are restricted to a specific minimum distance from schools. Hempstead, New York requires a special use permit for cell towers near schools.

Examples of cell tower/4G/5G small cell setbacks/preferred placements for schools:

- Palo Alto, California: 1,500 feet
- Copake, NewYork :1500 feet
- Los Altos , California: 500 feet
- Walnut City, California: 1,500 feet
- Bar Harbor, Maine: 1,500 feet
- Sallisaw, Oklahoma: 1,500 feet
- Shelbourne , Massachusetts: 1,500 feet
- Stockbridge, Massachusetts: 1,500 feet
- San Diego County California 1,000 feet
- Encinitas California:500 feet
- Scarsdale New York: 500 feet
- Ithaca, New York: 250 feet

CELL TOWERS REMOVED FROM SCHOOL GROUNDS

- Milpitas California: School Board asked Crown Castle and T-Mobile to relocate the cell tower to remote location.
- Ripon California: Sprint moved the cell tower at elementary after students and staff developed cancer and parents argued children should not be guinea pigs.
- Alameda California cancelled cell tower contracts.
- Dekalb County Georgia dropped school tower plan.

SCHOOL BOARDS

- Palo Alto Unified School District Cell Tower Resolution supports the City 1,500 setback and opposes cell tower "on or in close proximity to schools to ensure individuals, especially children, are protected from the potential negative effects associated with radiation exposure."
- West Linn-Wilsonville Oregon School Board prohibits cell towers on school property.
- Vancouver School Boards Resolution: 1,000 feet
- Greenbelt Maryland Council opposes school towers.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The International Association of Firefighters passed a Resolution opposing cell towers on its stations in 2004 after a study found neurological damage in firefighters with antennas on their fire stations.

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED CA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 3 resolutions opposing cell towers on school property.
- The District Office of Health and Safety developed a "cautionary level" for radiofrequency radiation 10,000 times lower than FCC regulations because, *"it is believed that a more conservative level is necessary to protect children, who represent a potentially vulnerable and sensitive population."*

SCHOOL BOARDS THAT REVERSED COURSE

- Montgomery County Maryland Schools policy does not allow cell towers on elementary schools.
- Prince George's County Maryland School Board decided not to renew a cell tower construction master leasing agreement that had allowed over 60 schools to be marketed as cell tower sites.
- Portland Oregon Schools ended new leases for cell towers.

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS

- The New Hampshire State Commission 5G Health and Environment Report recommends a setback of 1640 feet for schools.
- The Collaborative For High Performance Schools (Green building rating program) has LOW EMF Criteria which includes no cell towers on school property.

THE EPA SCHOOL SITING GUIDELINES

Lists exposure to electromagnetic fields and the fall distance as "potential hazards" from cell towers. The EPA guidelines recommend schools "identify and evaluate cell towers within ~200 feet of prospective school locations."

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- 500 meter buffer recommended for schools to reduce liability and minimize risk (Pearce 2019)
- A moratorium on 5G pending safety research (Frank 2020)
- A precautionary approach is better suited to State obligations under international human rights law (Roda and Perry 2014)
- Increased cancer deaths near cell antennas (Rodrigues 2021)
- Studies find: DNA Damage(Zothansiama 2017), Diabetes (Meo 2015), Cognitive effects (Meo 2018), sleep problems and headaches (Abdel-Rassoul 2007, Levitt & Lai 2010, Shahbazi-Gahrouei 2013)

CELL TOWERS & WIRELESS

BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

- Two resolutions. One calls on each Board of Education to have one public school at each education level that is free of Wi-Fi, cordless phones, and cell phones.
- The second calls on the Boards of Education to "cease to install Wi-Fi and other wireless networks in schools where other networking technology is feasible."

CALIFORNIA PTA

- Resolution on Electromagnetic Fields
- PTA can educate and inform districts, councils and units about the potential hazards of EMFs to encourage school districts and schools to develop risk reduction policies and to disseminate information on the subject."

PALO ALTO, (CA) PTA

- Fact sheet on "Safe Use of Technology" which distributed to all the schools in the Palo Alto Unified School District

PACIFIC GROVE (CA) PTAs

- Forest Grove Elementary Pacific Grove Middle School and Pacific Grove High School PTAs sent a letter to City Council opposing a high school cell tower.

FLETCHER HILLS (CA) PTA

- Resolution encouraging schools to use cable lines Internet connections and to avoid wireless networks on campus.

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PHOENICIA ELEMENTARY NY PTA

- Sent a letter to the Onteora School District calling for the Wi-Fi to be turned off.

NEELSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA (MD)

- Voted to oppose proposed cell tower.
- Hosted parent information session with both the cell tower company and Environmental Health Trust.

NEW YORK STATE PTA

- Resolution on Cell Towers supporting:

1. laws that regulate tower placement near schools
2. research into the long-term effects of RFR
3. education for parents and school officials regarding cell towers and health.

CASTLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL (AUSTRALIA) P&C COMMITTEE

- Funded ethernet plugs to reduce wireless exposure in classroom.
- Developed "Mobile Phone Safety Tips & Cyberbullying Information," which includes how to reduce cell phone and wireless radiation

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (MD) PTA

- Safe Tech PTA Committee shares online and print resources on reducing RFR exposure and on digital safety issues such as privacy.
- Meets monthly with school IT department.

HILLSMERE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA (MD)

- Sent letters to the school board in opposition to cell towers near the school.

BRIARLAKE ELEMENTARY (GA)

- Voted to oppose cell tower after board approved towers on schools.



Bold blue on this PDF are hyperlinked. For more setbacks go to ehtrust.org

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TRUST