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[Front page](#)**Full-scale structural testing lab conducts cell phone tower tests**

Until recently, the Full-Scale Structural Testing Laboratory at Wichita State University's National Institute for Aviation Research only had experience in conducting full-scale testing for aircraft. Now the lab is conducting full-scale testing on monopoles to support cellular phone towers.

BCI Wireless of Boulder, Colo. specializes in cell phone tower reinforcements. The company recently realized a need to test the structural integrity of its products. After researching, they found no prior evidence of full-scale structural testing for cell phone towers.

In recent weeks, the Full-Scale Structural Testing Lab began tests on 20-ft monopole sections. The test set-up simulates high-speed wind gusts by applying a 15,000-lb load to each end of the pole. In additional tests BCI will add reinforcements and field components to the pole to determine how they affect strain.

BCI also plans to do future testing at NIAR's Full-Scale Structural Testing Lab on latticed tower sections also used to support cellular services.

Press release issued by National Institute for Aviation Research on July 31, 2006

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