



Cell Tower Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why does FHPS want to place a cell tower on the Eastern campus?**
 - Safety and security are always at the forefront of the district. There is little to no cell reception at our Eastern facility and campus. In the event of an emergency, individuals would not have access to informing emergency responders unless they are near a landline phone.
 - The district also contracted with a third party to perform a safety and security assessment of all its facilities. Lack of cell reception was cited by the third party as a safety concern.
 - Some students with unique medical needs require consistent reception and communication with their parents.
- **How was the location of the proposed tower determined?**
 - The third-party vendor, who would erect the tower if approved, walked the Eastern campus to determine the best location based on the land's topography to deliver the needed cell service as well as to reduce visibility by the neighboring homes.
- **How tall is the tower and what type of structure is it?**
 - The tower is a 195 foot monopole structure
- **Who regulates cell towers, and what are the emission requirements?**
 - Cell towers are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). FCC standards are conservative and are well below the threshold for any known potential health effects from exposure to radio frequency (RF) waves.

- **What does the FCC say about the safety of cell towers?**
 - Measurements made near typical cellular and personal communications service (PCS) installations, especially those with tower-mounted antennas, have shown that ground-level power densities are hundreds to thousands of times less than the FCC's limits for safe exposure. This makes it extremely unlikely that a member of the general public could be exposed to RF levels in excess of FCC guidelines due solely to cellular or PCS base station antennas located on towers or monopoles.

- **What does the FCC say about locating cell towers near homes or schools?**
 - RF emissions from antennas used for cellular and PCS transmissions result in exposure levels on the ground that are typically thousands of times below safety limits. These safety limits were adopted by the FCC based on the recommendations of expert organizations and endorsed by agencies of the Federal Government responsible for health and safety. Therefore, there is no reason to believe such towers could be a potential health hazard to nearby residents or students.

- **What is electromagnetic radiation?**
 - Electromagnetic radiation is a combination of electric and magnetic fields that move through space together as waves. There are two categories: non-ionizing and ionizing.

- **What are the sources of non-ionizing radiation, and is it harmful?**
 - In addition to cell towers, some examples of non-ionizing radiation include light bulbs, computers, Wi-Fi routers, cell phones, FM radio, GPS, and broadcast television. Routine exposure to non-ionizing radiation is generally perceived as harmless to humans, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
 - Scientific consensus shows that non-ionizing radiation is not a carcinogen and, at or below the radio frequency exposure limits set by the FCC, has not been shown to cause any harm to people.

- **What are the sources of ionizing radiation, and is it harmful?**
 - Some examples of ionizing radiation include X-ray machines, radioactive materials, and nuclear fission. This is high-energy radiation with the potential for direct cellular and DNA damage, according to the FDA.

- **Where can I find the FCC's guidelines related to human exposure to RF fields and cell towers?**
 - Information can be found on the [FCC's website](#).

- **What about the August 2021 ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit?**
 - The court remanded the FCC to provide a reasoned explanation for its determination that its guidelines adequately protect against harmful effects of exposure to RF radiation unrelated to cancer. The Court stated “To be clear, we take no position in the scientific debate regarding the health and environmental effects of RF radiation—we merely conclude that the Commission’s cursory analysis of material record evidence was insufficient as a matter of law.” This information can be found using this [link](#) and referring to Section III on page 30 of the document.

- **Did FHPS explore other options?**
 - In late 2016/early 2017 a representative from AT&T walked the inside of the Eastern facility to measure the current cell reception service and provide options to increase coverage. At that time, they stated that good customer reception is from -65db to -95db. The building was mostly in the -110db range. The solution for enhancing a signal for the entire building would have been in excess of \$75,000 at that time and would have only impacted AT&T customers. We also could have added smaller boosters that would impact a small portion of the building at a much lower cost. However, it only covered a small area of the building and would have been for AT&T customers only. We would have needed each carrier to determine their solution and proposed cost.

- **Where can I find additional information?**
 - [American Cancer Society](#)

 - [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#)

 - [National Cancer Institute](#)

 - [World Health Organization](#)

 - [Verizon](#)
 - [RF Myths versus Facts Online Brochure](#)
 - [Answering Questions about 5G](#)