

BODY BELTS
 (LEATHER)

	CONTENTS	PAGE
1.	GENERAL	51
2.	DESCRIPTION	51
3.	GENERAL PRECAUTIONS	51
4.	SAFETY PRECAUTIONS	52
5.	ACCESSORIES	52
6.	INSPECTION OF BODY BELTS	53
7.	DISPOSITION OF BODY BELTS	53

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes the Bell System Standard Body Belt. The body belt, together with the safety strap, provides a means of securing a workman to a pole or other structure, thus promoting his safety while working aloft.

1.02 This section is reissued to update and consolidate information relating to Body Belts into one complete practice. The following practices are replaced by this section and are hereby cancelled.

BSP Number	TITLE
081-720-010	Body Belts - Safety Precautions
081-720-111	D Holsters and B Handline Carrier
081-720-305	Leather Body Belts
081-720-600	Body Belts Inspection

2. DESCRIPTION

2.01 Body belts are furnished in 4 inch width and in six sizes, ranging from 18 inches to 28 inches in 2 inch steps. The size of the belt is the distance between "Dee" rings measured in inches.

2.02 The degree of comfort and satisfactory service which a workman obtains from a body belt depends to a large extent on the location of

the Dee rings with respect to the prominent portions of the hip bones. Most workmen prefer to have the Dee rings located slightly in front of the prominent portions of the hip bones. To obtain a properly fitting belt, measure the distance across the back to the desired locations of the Dee rings and order a belt of this size (to the nearest inch).

2.03 The punched end of the strap of the body belt has been made sufficiently long to fit the larger workmen.

2.04 If the buckle strap is too long, it may be shortened by cutting off the excess length provided the cut passes through one of the buckle holes. This will ensure a minimum distance between the last usable hole and the end of the strap, long enough to prevent tearing of the belt by the tongue of the buckle.

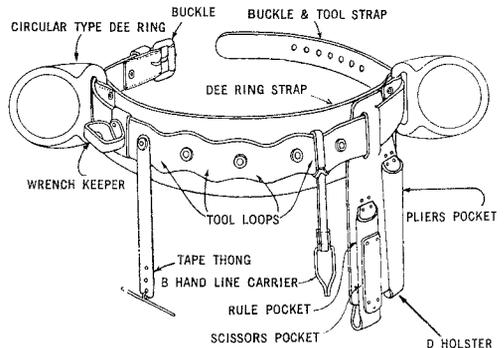


Fig. 1 — Body Belt and Accessories

3. GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

3.01 Body belts should never be stored with edged tools, or other sharp objects. When body belts, safety straps and climbers are kept in the same container, the climbers should be fitted with gaff guards to prevent damage to the leather by the climber gaffs.

SECTION 081-720-011CA

3.02 Never store or place body belts near radiators, stoves, steam pipes, or in place where the leather would be subjected to excessive heat or dampness. Either of these conditions is likely to impair the strength of the leather.

3.03 When a body belt is damp or wet, wipe it with a dry cloth and allow it to dry completely in a dry shady place. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO PLACE THE BODY BELT NEAR ANY SOURCE OF ARTIFICIAL HEAT** for the following reasons. Investigation has shown that many leather tools dried by artificial heat have been cooked inside. Sometimes the surface shows no defect; in other cases the surface shows only localized hard spots. Yet the inside of the leather has been very seriously damaged by the formation of crystalline material like rosin. This has no strength. The leather fibres are destroyed as it forms. Hard spots on the surface are of the same material. Although the belt may afterward appear to be satisfactory, it is liable to cause injury to the man who cooked it or the man to whom the belt is reissued.

3.04 Do not enlarge the holes for the buckle tongue and do not punch extra holes in the belt.

3.05 Do not scratch initials, name or other identifying marks on a body belt.

3.06 Leather body belts may be injured seriously and made unsafe for use if heavy objects such as trucks, trailers, loaded reels, or other heavy equipment, are allowed to run over or fall on the body belt. Care should be exercised to see that this does not occur. If it should occur the belt should be removed from service immediately and given a thorough examination for defects.

4. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

4.01 The following precautions should be observed when using body belts.

- (a) Wear body belts and safety straps **at all times**, when working aloft on poles, including stepped poles, cable cars, and if a Z Lanyard Belt is not available while working from aerial platforms, ladder platforms, ladders lashed to strand and aerial baskets.

- (b) Do not fasten an uncoiled handline directly to a belt or to tools hanging on a belt when climbing or working on a pole. Either of the following two methods provide a safe means of carrying or supporting an uncoiled handline aloft.

- (1) Form the end of the handline into a loop and place the loop in the handline carrier.

- (2) Form the end of the handline into a bight and tuck the bight up under the body belt.

If the handline should be caught on either an obstruction or a passing vehicle, and the handline is attached by either of the above methods, the handline will be pulled free and the workman will not be pulled off the pole.

- (c) Do not use the body belt to assist in piking poles. In the event that the workman slips or stumbles, the pike pole may slide down between the belt and the body and cause serious injury.

- (d) **Never place or carry tools or materials, other than the snap hooks of the safety strap, in the Dee rings of the body belt.** These items should be carried in the standard manner, i.e. using holsters or other approved carriers. **Foreign materials in Dee rings may prevent proper engagement of the snap hooks in the Dee rings or give false indication of snap hook engagement.**

5. ACCESSORIES

5.01 The D Holster, made of leather, is an off-set double holster with pockets for a rule and pliers, and a pocket for scissors attached to the rule pocket. Only the "Right" D Holster is shown on a "Right" body belt in Fig. 1.

5.02 The B Handline Carrier is a device which may be attached to a body belt and used for securing one end of a rope while climbing a pole. It is made of a steel loop designed to release the rope under strain. The loop is attached to a rawhide strap approximately 8 inches long and slit near the opposite end. The slit in the strap permits attaching the carrier to the body belt as shown in Fig. 1.

6. INSPECTION OF BODY BELT

6.01 The belt should be examined to determine the condition of all parts as suggested below. If any of the following conditions are found to exist, or if the condition of the belt is such that there is any doubt as to its safety return the belt to the Telephone Distributing House.

6.02 *Visual Inspection of Body Belts:* The important conditions to look for are:

- (a) Broken steel reinforcement plates holding Dee rings.
- (b) Leather of loop over reinforcing plates worn or crushed by the Dee ring at the edges sufficiently to affect its strength or to cause the leather to tear.
- (c) Loose or broken rivets (particularly those in the loops holding the Dee rings).
- (d) Broken or rotted threads in the stitching of the loops holding the Dee rings.
- (e) Cracks, cuts, etc., that would tend to cause the leather to tear or would be likely to affect the strength of the belt.
- (f) Leather hard and dry.
- (g) Broken wrench keeper.
- (h) Broken or defective buckle.
- (i) Burnt leather (see Paragraph 3.03).

6.03 Leather with hard spots, a curved set or indistinct portion of the ironed crease along the edge, as well as leather having a burnt streak across the face may have become burned or cooked by being subjected to excessive heat. This may have happened to a belt in any of the following ways:

- (a) Placing the belt against or near hot steam pipes, radiators, or heaters.
- (b) Placing belt near a pot of hot solder, hot soldering copper, or a splicer's furnace.

6.04 *Visual Inspection of Leather Tool Holster:* The important conditions to look for are:

- (a) Loose or broken rivets.
- (b) Broken or rotted threads in stitching.

6.05 *Bending Test for Leather:* This test should be made on body belts only when the leather is clean and well oiled. The leather should show no cracks other than slight surface cracks when the test is applied. If well defined cracks appear, the belt must not be used, but should be taken out of service and disposed of in accordance with the Company's established routine. The test should not be made if the temperature of the leather is below 32°F., since at low temperatures the leather may be damaged by bending it around the test mandrel.

(a) Leather shall be bent with the grain (smooth) side out, over a mandrel that is not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in diameter (a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch guy rod may be used). In making this test, pull the leather taut, and wrap it half-way around the mandrel, keeping the leather under tension while the bend is being made. This procedure brings the leather into firm contact with the mandrel while the bend is being made, and thus avoids bending the leather too sharply. ***Do not loop the leather first and then pull it over the mandrel. Do not make the bend test at a buckle hole.***

(b) Body belts shall be subjected to the bend test at points where it is possible to bend them, such as under the leather tool loops and at the tongue strap.

6.06 If leather of the thickness used in Bell System standard body belts is subjected to an excessively severe test, such as bending it too sharply (without a mandrel or over too small a mandrel) with the grain side out, good leather may crack because of the excessive strain placed on the grain layer.

7. DISPOSITION OF BODY BELTS

7.01 Body Belts which have developed major defects shall be withdrawn from service for repairs or destruction. Employees in the field shall see that such belts in their possession are returned to the Telephone Distributing House tagged or marked "Dangerous", "Do Not Use" and, if practical, the belt shall be marked to show the location of the defect.