

**BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES**  
**Outside Plant Construction**  
**and Maintenance**

**SECTION G21.140.4**  
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**AT&T Co Standard**

**ERECTING POLES AND STUBS**  
**PIKE POLE METHOD**

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**1. GENERAL**

1.01 This practice describes the use of pike poles in the erection of poles and stubs. Setting small poles by hand is also included.

1.02 Where poles are to be set by pikes, do not place pole steps before the pole is erected on account of possible interference with the pike poles.

**2. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

2.01 The success of setting poles and stubs manually and the safety of the employees involved depends upon the intelligent cooperation of all concerned. Each man should be assigned to a definite part of the work and should understand his function in the operation.

2.02 Body belts or climbers shall not be worn by employees engaged in any pole setting operation.

2.03 Nothing should be left under foot where it might cause tripping when setting the poles. Secure footing shall be obtained before attempting to raise the pole manually or by pikes.

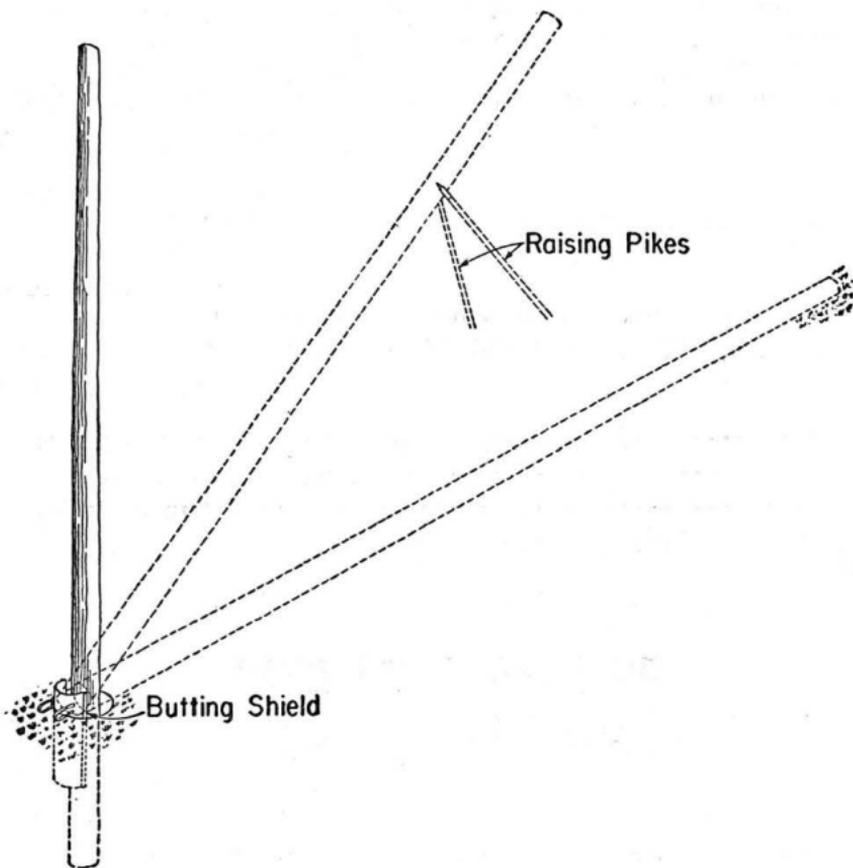
2.04 Lifting the pole should be done by the leg muscles, keeping the back straight.

2.05 If it is necessary to turn a pole with a cant hook or peavy while it is being held erect by pike poles caution should be used and the pikes held in place to avoid the possibility of the pike point being dislodged from the pole.

### 3. POLE SETTING, PIKE POLE METHOD

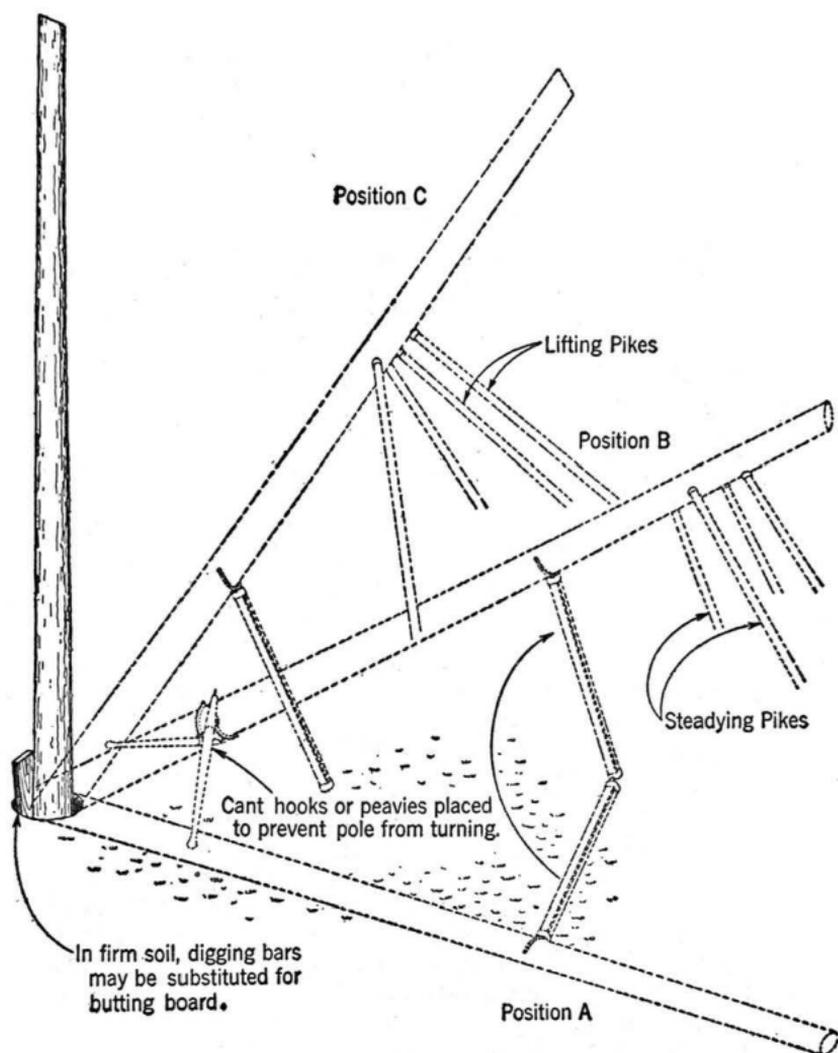
3.01 Small poles such as are used in rural lines (20-foot class 7 and smaller) may be set by hand by one or two employees. In such cases, where a pole is crooked or is being set in a back slope or the ground is not reasonably level the hole should be trenched. The depth of the trench at the edge of the hole should be at least the diameter of the pole butt and taper out to the ground level.

3.02 Lightweight poles (25-foot class 7 and smaller) may be set without the use of a dead-man. Two pike poles and either a C Butting Shield, a butting board (used in soft soil) or digging bars (used in firm soil) are sufficient.



3.03 For medium weight poles (35-foot and smaller) proceed as follows:

- (1) Place butting board (used in soft soil) or digging bars (used in firm soil) in the hole on the side away from where the pole lies.
- (2) Move pole into position with the butt against butting board or bars.
- (3) Place dead-man on the ground near the top of the pole and approximately at right angles to the pole. The fork of the dead-man should be against the pole and the footing should be at a point where it will not slip when the pole is lifted and the weight is supported by the dead-man as shown in Position A of the following illustration. Station a man to guide the dead-man as the pole is lifted and prevent it from slipping along the pole or at the foot. The man handling the dead-man should, at all times, avoid standing directly under the pole.
- (4) Lift pole and dead-man to Position B. If pole is brought into place on a pole dolly lift top of pole and place dead-man underneath.
- (5) Use 2 cant hooks or peavies, one to pull against the other as a means of preventing the pole from turning as it is being raised. Place the cant hooks or peavies about 2 feet above probable ground line. Station a man to hold the hooks as the pole is being raised.



(6) Place pike poles near the top of pole, one considerably to each side to assist in the lifting and to steady the pole as it rises and the others slightly to one side to do the greater part of the lifting. At this stage, the steadying pikes should be held with the two hands separated and the lift pikes should be held in the hollow formed by clasped hands.

(7) Raise the pole, then move the dead-man down until it supports the pole again. (Position C.) In changing the location of the dead-man, keep it in instant readiness

to support the entire weight of the pole. (Pole may be lifted from Position B to Position C by hand, if more convenient.)

(8) Apply pikes further down the pole. (Position C.) Shift the pikes one at a time. Raise the pole again. When the pole passes the 45° angle, the men on lift pikes may work to better advantage if they use one hand to support the butt of the pike at the level of the shoulder and the other hand to guide the pike.

(9) Repeat this operation until the pole can be piked directly into the hole. When the pole commences to slide into the hole, remove the dead-man so that it will not interfere with the movement of the pole.

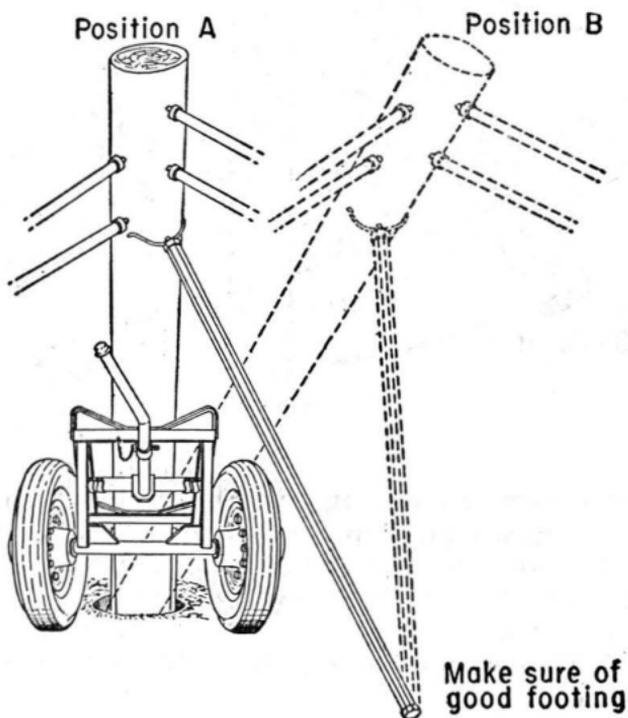
(10) Line up pole with cant hooks or peavies and steady it with pikes while backfilling and tamping.

3.04 Where heavy poles are to be set, proceed as follows:

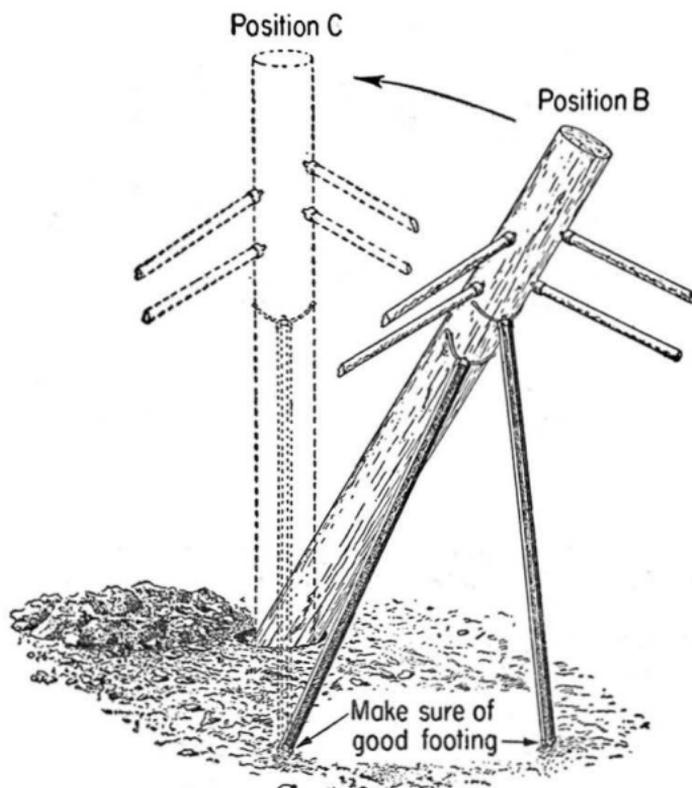
(1) Move pole into position with butt against butting board, preferably using pole dolly.

(2) Place a dead-man under the end of the pole at right angles to the pole and at an angle from the vertical.

(Position A.)



- (3) Distribute men with pike poles evenly along both sides of the pole.
- (4) Place 2 cant hooks or peavies near butt about 2 feet above probable ground line to prevent pole from turning and station a man to tend them.
- (5) Pike the pole toward the leaning dead-man until pole is in Position B.



- (6) Remove dolly.
- (7) Place a second dead-man nearer the butt at an angle from the vertical and pike the pole toward this dead-man till the pole is in Position C.
- (8) Remove the first dead-man and place it below the second dead-man at about the same angle as before.
- (9) Repeat the process. The pole is thus swayed back and forth, rising each time, till it can be piked directly into the hole.
- (10) Line up pole with cant hooks or peavies and steady it with pikes while backfilling and tamping.