

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

SECTION G21.505.1
Issue 1, September, 1956
AT&T CO Standard

POLE REMOVAL
GENERAL

Contents	Page
1. General	1
2. Safety Precautions	1
3. Disposal of Poles and Other Equipment	2

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section through G21.505.4 covers the methods and safety precautions to be followed in the removal of poles.

1.02 The parts covering the removal of guys, formerly contained in Section G21.505 is now contained in another section of the practices. This cancels Section G21.505.

1.03 Several methods of removing poles are described in this group of practices. The conditions existing and the equipment available should determine which particular method should be employed.

1.04 Work should be conducted so as to avoid interference with existing service.

1.05 Old poles should be taken down as soon as practicable after attachments have been removed. Pole butts should not be left in the ground where this is contrary to local regulation, objectional to property owners, or if there is any likelihood that it may become necessary to remove them at a later date because of highway improvements, etc. Pole butts which are left in place, however, should not project above ground.

1.06 If practicable, avoid leaving pole holes open overnight, holes which must be left open should be properly protected.

1.07 All holes caused by removal of poles shall be filled and tamped sufficiently to prevent settling of the earth or paving. Holes in pavement and broken pavement should be patched as soon as practicable after removal of poles.

2. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

2.01 The practice "Precautions—General" shall be understood and followed by all employees engaged in pole removal work. Every employee who has occasion to climb poles

shall be thoroughly familiar with the practices "Precautions—Aerial Work" and "Safeguards to be Taken Before Climbing Poles" and shall adhere to these practices.

2.02 Manila ropes and blocks should be handled as directed in practices covering "Use, Care, and Maintenance of Manila Ropes and Blocks."

2.03 The practice "Eye Protection" shall be understood and followed by all workmen performing dismantling or pole removal work.

2.04 When light, power, or trolley wires are close to a pole to be removed, the information in the practice "Pole Lines—Placing or Removing Poles Near Electric Power Wires" shall be understood and the precautions observed. In addition, care must be taken to keep clear of overhead power wires and attachments when placing rope lashings on poles.

2.05 The attachment of a pulling line to the pole should be at a point above the balance point of the pole including attachments such as crossarms, if any. If there is any doubt of the line attachment being above the balance point, the pole shall be adequately supported with temporary guys arranged to control the pole through lowering operations. In most cases temporary guys attached to the lower section of the pole well below the pulling line attachment will provide better control of the pole and can be placed more conveniently than guys above the line attachment. If there is any probability of the pole breaking at the ground line, the pole shall be cut off before removal, the line being attached above the balance point of the section of the pole above the point of cut.

2.06 Stepped poles which have been cut off and which are not immediately taken down shall have all pole steps removed within a distance of at least 6 feet, 6 inches above the ground line before leaving the job.

3. DISPOSAL OF POLES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

3.01 If the poles are in satisfactory condition for reuse and can be reused in the same locality, that is, within a sufficiently short distance to justify the cost of hauling the poles to the new location or to a store-yard, they should be salvaged. If the poles are not suitable for reuse as poles or can not be otherwise used they can sometimes be disposed of to near-by property owners.

3.02 Other materials, such as crossarms, guard arms, strain insulators, guy clamps, bolts, etc., if in satisfactory condition for reuse, should be returned to stock. If they are not satisfactory for reuse they should be disposed of as directed by the supervisor.