

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

SECTION G21.505.3
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AT&T Co Standard

POLE REMOVAL
GIN POLE METHOD

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes the use of a gin pole as used in the removal of poles.

1.02 The gin pole method should be used where poles are of such length that they can not be removed by means of the pole derrick, where power equipment is not available or conditions do not permit jacking them out or cutting them down.

1.03 The length of the gin pole should be such that its height above ground is at least half of the full length of the pole to be removed. The reason for this is that it is essential that the blocks or winch line be attached to the old pole above the balance point. At the start of the pull, this attachment should be separated from the upper block on the gin pole by a distance sufficient to allow the pole to be lifted completely above the ground before the attachment and block are brought together.

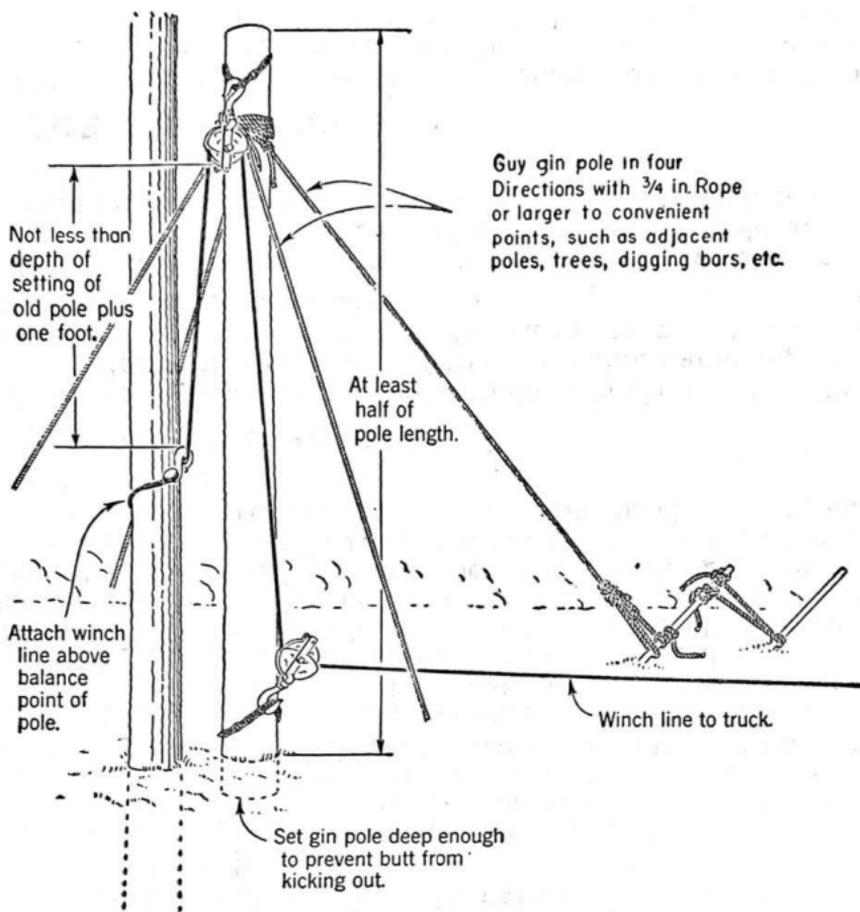
2. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

2.01 The safety precautions contained in the practices "Pole Removal—General" together with those applying to the equipment and tools used as contained in other sections of the practices shall be adhered to.

2.02 Climbing and work done incident to placing slings, blocks, etc, should be done from the gin pole unless it is definitely known that the old pole is strong enough to permit climbing.

3. THE GIN POLE METHOD

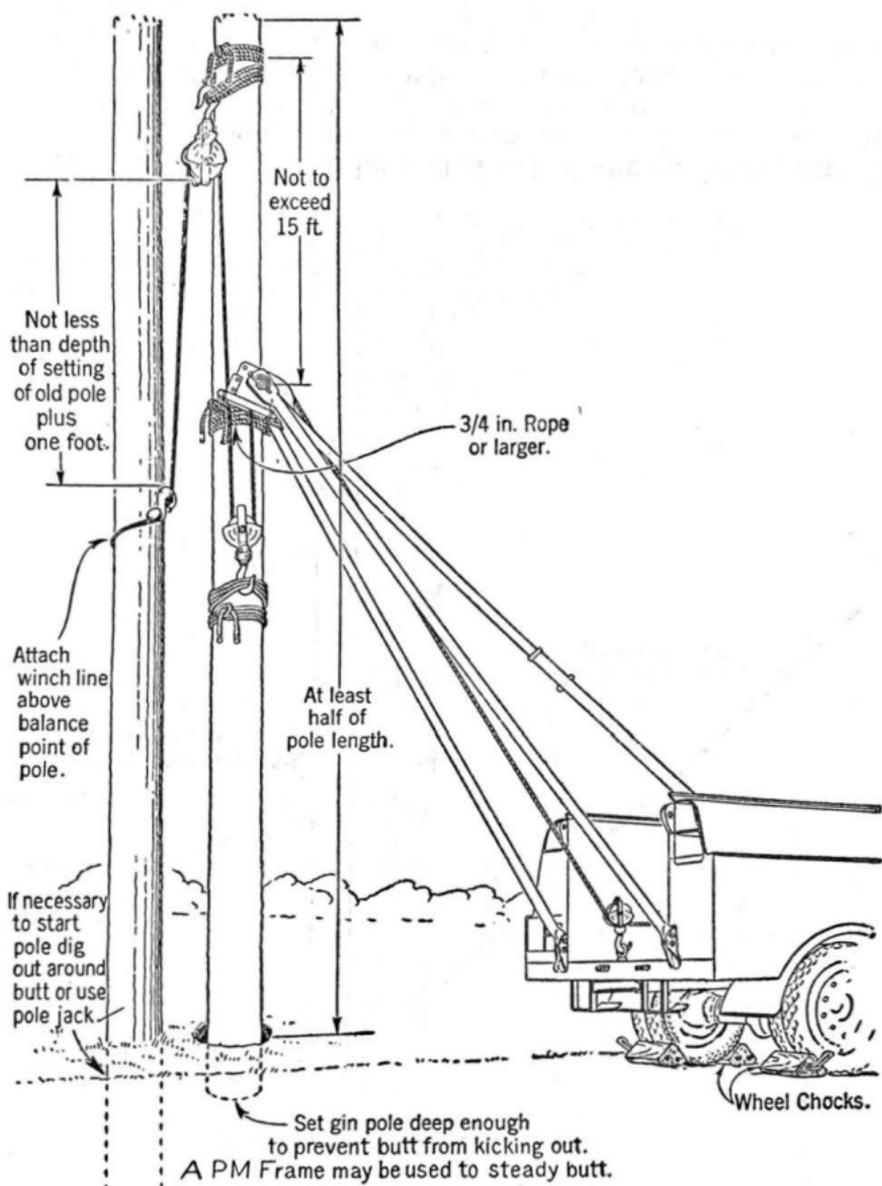
3.01 Place a sling and wire rope snatch block near the butt of the gin pole and another at sufficient height with respect to the point at which the winch line is attached to the old pole to permit lifting this pole completely out of the ground.



3.02 Take a moderate tension in winch line. If the pole starts to lift, the pull may be continued, otherwise it should be loosened by digging out around the butt or raised by means of a pole jack.

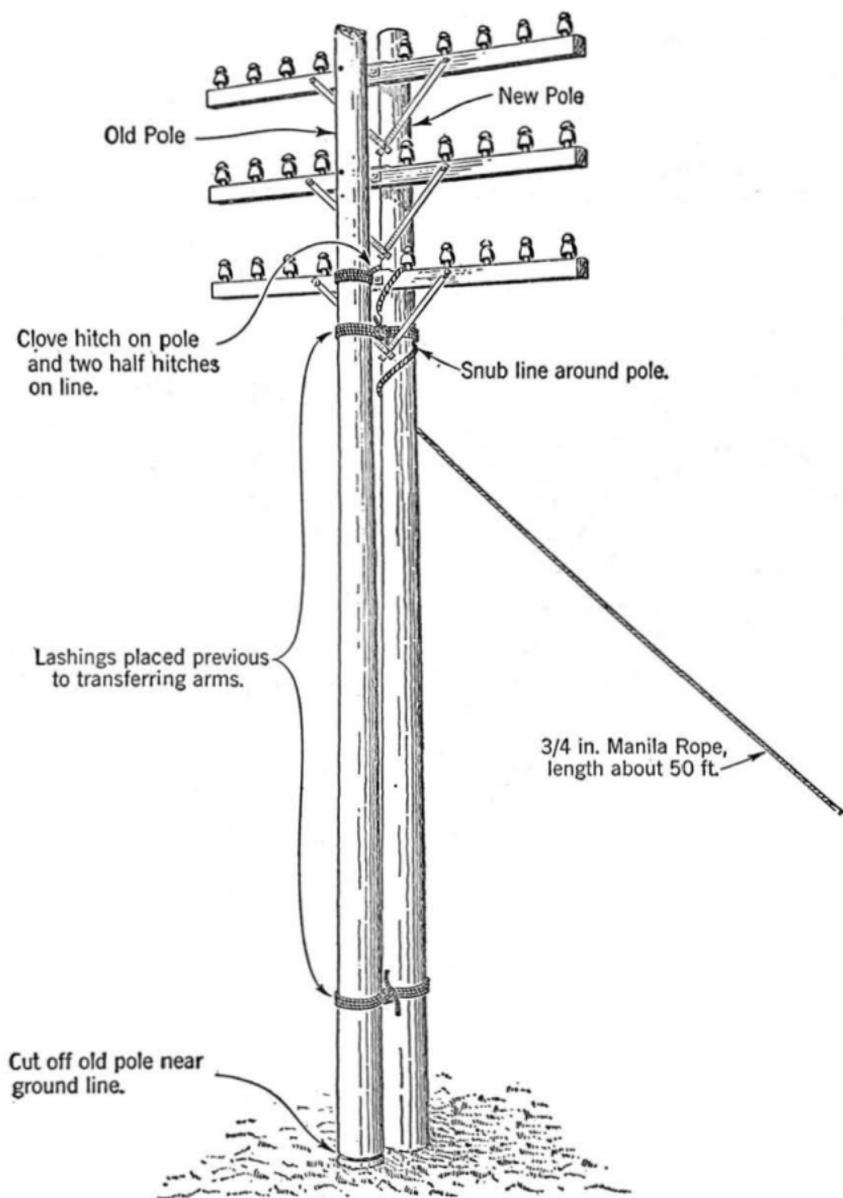
3.03 If poles, trees, or other secure objects are not available for attachment of guys required for support of gin poles, etc, attachment may be made to bars driven into the ground in accordance with the sections covering "Safeguards to be Taken Before Climbing Poles."

3.04 Necessity for guying the gin poles as illustrated in Paragraph 3.01 can be eliminated by lashing the gin pole to the pole derrick provided it is not necessary to place the upper block more than 15 feet above the head of the derrick.



3.05 A pole 35 feet or less in length, cut off at the ground level, can be lowered by a rope snubbed around an adjacent pole set for replacement purposes. Details of the method are given below:

- (a) Attach a 3/4-inch manila rope line to the old pole. Pass this line over a crossarm or other secure attachment on the new pole and snub line around this pole.
- (b) Cut off old pole close to ground line.



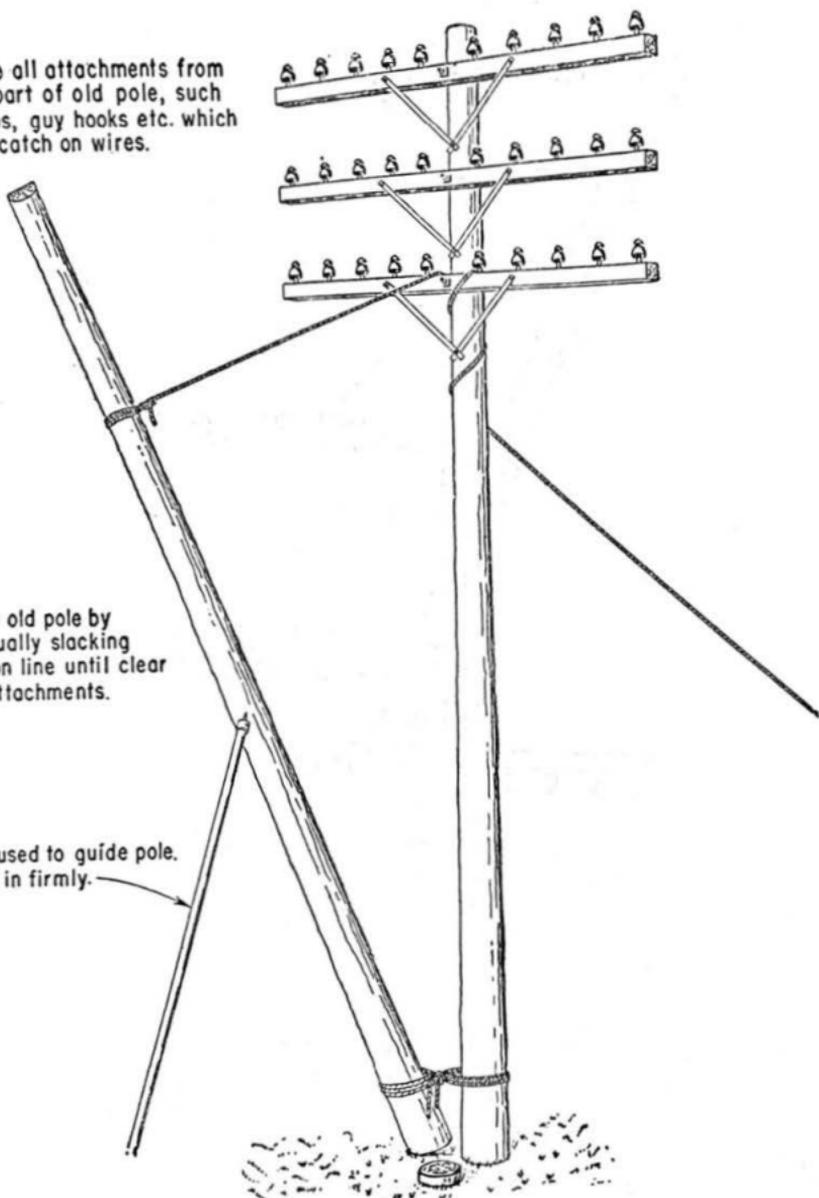
(c) All slack should be pulled out of the snubbing line. The line should then be drawn taut and made fast to a secure anchorage or held under tension by a man on the ground. Any lashings that had been placed to support the old pole during the transfer of equipment should then be removed by a man working from the new pole.

(a) Shut the old pole on the butt with digging bars and lash both poles loosely together approximately three feet above the ground with a rope sling. This will prevent the butt end from kicking out of control while the pole is lowered.

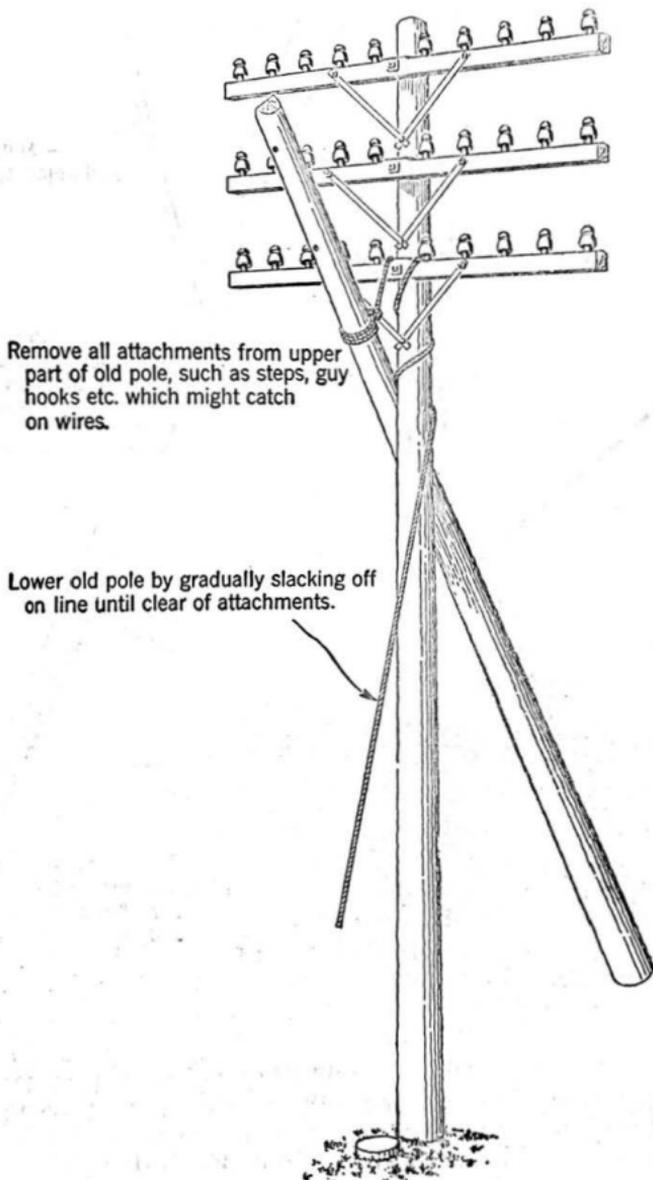
Remove all attachments from upper part of old pole, such as steps, guy hooks etc. which might catch on wires.

Lower old pole by gradually slacking off on line until clear of attachments.

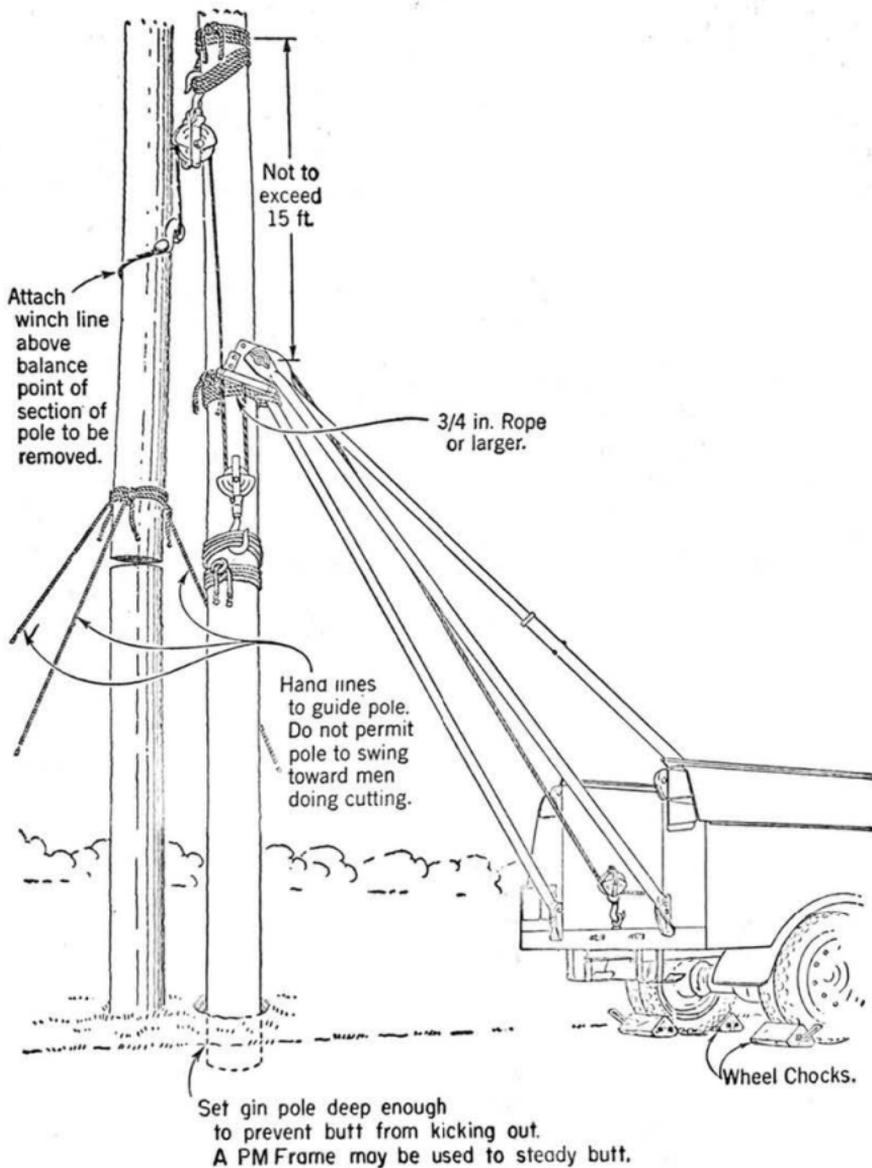
Pike used to guide pole. Jab in firmly.



- (e) Lower the old pole by gradually slacking off on the snubbing line, taking care that its free end does not become fouled. Rope lines or pike poles should be used to guide it clear of wires and other attachments.
- (f) When space is limited or to clear obstructions it may be desirable to lower the old pole straight down. In this case shift the butt as the pole is lowered.



3.06 The gin pole method can be used for removing tall poles in sections. In such work it is essential that the upper part of the pole, as it is cut off, be prevented from swinging toward the men who have been engaged in the cutting operation. In the event a pole to be removed is of such height as to require that the point of attachment of the winch line be more than 15 feet above the head of the derrick, the gin pole should be guyed as illustrated in Paragraph 3.01.



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