

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

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WIRE STRINGING PRECAUTIONS

ELECTRIC LIGHT OR POWER CROSSINGS

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section replaces Issue 1 and outlines the general precautions to be observed when stringing open wire over or under electric light or power wire crossings. It has been rewritten to expand the information on protective measures.

1.02 The precautions listed herein supplement detailed and general precautions contained in other sections of the practices.

1.03 All electric light and power crossings involving hazardous conditions should be accomplished under the personal supervision of the foreman in charge.

1.04 At all times, plan the job so that a minimum amount of wire need be pulled over or beyond the hazardous location. Tension and snub or tie the wire in the crossing span as soon as practicable after the wire is placed.

1.05 **All workmen handling ropes, wires, reels, wire raising tools, etc., MUST WEAR RUBBER GLOVES during wire stringing and tensioning operations involving electric light or power crossings.** When rubber gloves are worn, avoid all body contacts with wires, guys, strand, etc., which could become energized by contact with the wire being handled. Do not remove gloves until after the wire is tensioned. The use of rubber gloves during the tying-in operation is not generally required if electrical clearances are standard in the section under construction and adequate precautions have been taken

to prevent contact with power wires. However, if there is any questionable condition which may jeopardize the safe conduct of the tying-in operation, rubber gloves shall be worn.

1.06 Ordinarily, wires should not be strung under or over electric light or power wires when rope screens and other ropes required to prevent contact with electric light or power conductors can not be maintained in a dry condition.

2. CROSSING UNDER ELECTRIC LIGHT OR POWER WIRES

2.01 Whenever conditions permit, string the wire out on the ground and then lay it up on the crossarms or brackets. In the crossing span, where a flip-up may result in a contact with power wires, keep the telephone wires under control by means of a handline placed over the wires near the middle of the crossing span.

2.02 Where it is not feasible to string the wire out on the ground, the wire may be pulled over the crossarms. When this procedure is followed, always use a handline placed over the wire in the crossing span to prevent a flip-up during the stringing and tensioning operations. Do not remove the handline until the wires have been tensioned.

2.03 When an upward change in grade exists at a pole adjacent to a power crossing, tie the telephone wires down to the crossarm with a handline, or in the case of pole bracket construction, tie the wire to the pole immediately below the bracket, using a hand line. Do not remove the hand line ties until the wires are tied to the insulator and permanent methods of preventing wires from flipping up at upward changes in grade have been applied, as covered in other sections of the practices. The handline tie may be loosened to permit tying-in.

3. CROSSING OVER ELECTRIC LIGHT OR POWER WIRES

3.01 Whenever telephone wires are placed over electric light or power conductors restrict the motion of the wires above the point of hazard by means of a rope support or rope screen as outlined in other sections of the practices.

3.02 Whenever practicable, do not remove rope supports or rope screens until the wire has been tensioned and tied in. If it is impractical to tie the wire in position before removing a rope support, snub the wires securely, remove the rope support and tie the wires immediately thereafter.