

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

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CABLE SPLICING—GENERAL

REMOVING LEAD SLEEVE WITH TORCH

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This section describes the acetylene torch method of removing a lead sleeve from an aerial cable.

2. PRECAUTIONS

2.01 **This method is to be used only on aerial cables.**

2.02 **The torch must be so used that the flame will not come in contact with the strand;** heating the strand may cause it to break.

2.03 **The torch shall not be used after the ends of the lead sleeve have been freed from the wipe;** this will prevent the flame from coming in contact with the muslin wrapping.

2.04 Aerial tents should be ventilated while the torch is lighted. The tent flaps, especially those of tents that are not treated for fire resistance, should be tied back securely to prevent their blowing into the flame.

2.05 If the cable is under gas pressure, notify the test deskman or the office responsible for the alarm system that a sleeve is to be opened and that the gas pressure will be released.

3. METHOD

3.01 Remove the lead sleeve as outlined below:

- (1) Clean the surface of the wiped joints with the carding brush.

- (2) Apply the flame to a 3/4 to 1-inch section of one of the joints with a brushing motion. When the solder begins to melt, remove the melted solder with a small finishing cloth. Work progressively around the joint until as much solder has been removed as practicable.
- (3) While the solder remaining on the joint is still molten, move the end of the sleeve with a gentle circular motion until the solder has solidified.
- (4) Pry open the ends of the sleeve with a screwdriver just enough to permit pulling the sleeve to one side.
- (5) Unwipe the other joint in a similar manner and remove the sleeve.
- (6) If the sleeve has a Y joint, unwipe the straight joint first and then pull the sleeve toward the straight end after the Y joint is unwiped.