

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

**SECTION G80.445.1**  
**Issue 2, April, 1957**  
**AT&T Co Standard**

## **LINEMEN'S BLANKETS**

### **1. GENERAL**

- 1.01 This section provides instructions for the care, maintenance, and inspection of linemen's blankets.
- 1.02 This section is being reissued to include B Linemen's Blankets.
- 1.03 Conditions governing the use of linemen's blankets are contained in the section of Bell System Practices on placing poles in a joint-use line.

### **2. DESCRIPTION**

2.01 There are two types of linemen's blankets currently in use, namely, Linemen's Blankets and B Linemen's Blankets. Both types are 36 inches square. The Linemen's Blankets, which have been superseded by the B Linemen's Blankets, will continue to be used until the supply is exhausted.

2.02 Linemen's Blankets are made of natural rubber and have been molded with beaded edges containing 6 eyelets.

2.03 B Linemen's Blankets are made of a synthetic rubber in flat sheets containing neither beaded edges nor eyelets. The B Blankets have better electrical, weather and chemical resistant properties than Linemen's Blankets.

2.04 The Linemen's Blanket Canister is provided to store linemen's blankets. The canister will accommodate four rolled blankets. In order to protect the blankets from contact with sharp or pointed tools and other damaging agents, it is essential that they be stored in the canister.

2.05 If more than one blanket is to be stored in a canister, roll up one blanket and place it in the canister. Additional blankets can then be rolled and inserted, one at a time, inside the blanket previously placed in the canister.

### 3. CLEANING

3.01 Upon completion of a pole placing job, the linemen's blankets that have been used shall be cleaned, if necessary, and stored in canisters. Mud or dirt should be washed off with water. Creosote or wet paint should be wiped off as thoroughly as possible with a dry cloth; any remaining paint or creosote should be removed with a cloth slightly moistened with petroleum spirits or mineral spirits. Do not use gasoline to clean blankets, and do not wipe solvent over the "Return for Test" date stamp. All imbedded material, such as dirt, wood splinters, etc., shall be removed. Blankets shall be thoroughly dry before being rolled and stored.

### 4. INSPECTION

4.01 Blankets should be inspected visually for cracks, cuts, tears, or other mechanical damage, each time before being used, in the following manner:

- (1) Check the date (the imprint of the rubber stamp) of the next periodic electrical test to determine that the specified date has not been passed.
- (2) Place the blanket on a clean flat surface and roll it up tightly, beginning at one corner. As it is being rolled up, observe the rolled surface for cracks or other defects.
- (3) Unroll the blanket, and repeat operation (2), rolling the blanket at right angles to the original direction of rolling.
- (4) Inspect the reverse side of the blanket by unrolling it, turning it over and repeating operations (2) and (3).

4.02 Linemen's Blankets having the following defects shall be removed from service:

- (1) Punctures, holes, cuts, scratches, or cracks deeper than 1/2 the thickness of the blanket in any place but the border.
- (2) Cuts or tears at the edges which extend through the beaded border.

4.03 B Linemen's Blankets having punctures, holes, cuts, scratches, or cracks deeper than 1/2 the thickness of the blanket shall be removed from service.

4.04 Blankets shall be returned for periodic electrical tests as indicated by the marking on each blanket. They should be returned in rolls (3-1/2 inches diameter) that are properly wrapped to avoid damages.

## 5. MAINTENANCE OF B LINEMEN'S BLANKETS

5.01 A B Linemen's Blanket which has been found to have a cut, tear or puncture at one edge, may be repaired in the following manner:

- (1) Place the blanket on a flat surface and measure the length of the rupture. If trimming the blanket to remove the damaged portion will leave a remainder of less than 29 inches, the blanket should be replaced.
- (2) If the blanket can be repaired, draw a straight line completely across the blanket, approximately  $1/4$  inch from the rupture. Draw the line parallel to the edge which will result in the least loss of blanket material in removing the damaged portion.
- (3) With a pair of shears, cut along the line using all possible care to obtain a straight, smooth edge. ↙