BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction and Maintenance

SECTION G80.835.1
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WIRE AND CABLE CUTTER

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1. GENERAL

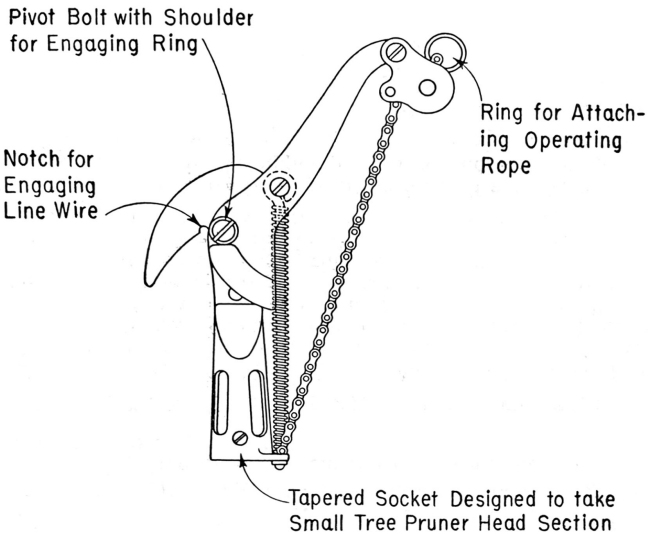
1.01 This section covers the Wire and Cable Cutter for cutting line wire and small cable from the ground in plant dismantling operations.

2. DESCRIPTION OF WIRE AND CABLE CUTTER

2.01 The Wire and Cable Cutter consists of a steel head having a cutting element, and a lever for operating the lower cutting blade. The bottom of the tool has a tapered socket for mounting the tool on the head section of the small tree pruner handle. The operating lever is provided with a pulley at its outer end and an opening spring near the pivot bolt. A chain secured at the bottom of the head and running over the pulley is terminated in a ring to which a 1/4 inch rope may be attached.

2.02 The upper cutter blade is in the form of a hook. A notch is provided in the upper part of the hook for engaging and cutting the line wire.

2.03 The lower blade which is normally held open by spring pressure, can be locked in a closed position by slipping the pull chain ring over the shouldered head of the pivot bolt.



3. USE OF WIRE AND CABLE CUTTER

3.01 The Wire and Cable Cutter is used in plant dismantling operations for cutting, from the ground, cables up to one inch in diameter and all sizes of steel, copper and copper-steel line wire in current use.

3.02 Short sections of cable can be removed by gripping the cable end with the cutter and pulling the cable end down to a point where it can be pulled out of the cable rings by hand from the ground.

3.03 The wire hangers of aerial cable supports may be cut with the cutter if there is sufficient space to insert the cutter between the cable and the strand.

4. PRECAUTIONS

4.01 Safety glasses or goggles must be worn during plant dismantling operations involving the use of the wire and cable cutter.

4.02 Appropriate warning signs and flags should be posted in the area surrounding the dismantling operation as covered in the sections on "Guarding Work Areas."

4.03 Care should be taken to allow no employee, pedestrian or motor vehicle under the wire and cable being removed.

4.04 The man using the cutter shall stand in a position so that he shall be clear of the falling wire or cable.

4.05 The Wire and Cable Cutter must not be used for open wire removal work at locations where there is a risk of contact of the wire being cut with electric power lines due to flip-up or sag into power lines.

4.06 The unbalanced loading which results when aerial wires under tension are cut may be sufficient to break poles weakened by deterioration. Such poles should be temporarily guyed if their failure would introduce any hazard to workmen, or the public or if their failure might result in property damage.

4.07 Wires should be cut only when there is no danger of the cut ends causing injury to workmen or other persons or damaging property.

4.08 Temporary deadends of wire and cable should be made at each end of the protected work area to prevent line wire and cable from running back and sagging down beyond the protected work area.

4.09 When cutting aerial cables at sleeves in the span, the cut should be made outside the cable rings adjacent to the ends of the sleeve so that the sleeve will remain supported in these rings. The sleeve should be removed at the time the strand is removed.

4.10 At cable terminal splices the main cable should be cut away from both ends of the terminal sleeve, leaving the sleeve and terminal stub to be removed when the pole is climbed for removal of the cable terminal.