

AERIAL PLATFORMS—GENERAL

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1. GENERAL

1.01 This is a general section dealing with information, precautions, etc., common to aerial platforms. Specific information for a particular type of aerial platform is covered in other sections of the Practices. Section G85.045 is replaced.

1.02 Pole platforms, ladder platforms, etc., are also covered elsewhere in the Practices.

2. PRECAUTIONS

2.01 **TESTING STRAND:** All aerial suspension strand shall be tested for soundness before placing an aerial platform. The method of testing the strand is covered in Bell System Practice G51.205.1.

2.02 A truck mounted ladder may be used when emergency repairs are made on a cable that is supported by deteriorated strand.

2.03 The following general precautions shall be observed in using aerial platforms:

(a) The weight on a platform or a platform and ladder shall be limited to two men and the tools and materials required except that the one man platform shall be limited to one man and the tools and materials required. Only one man shall be on the ladder at any time.

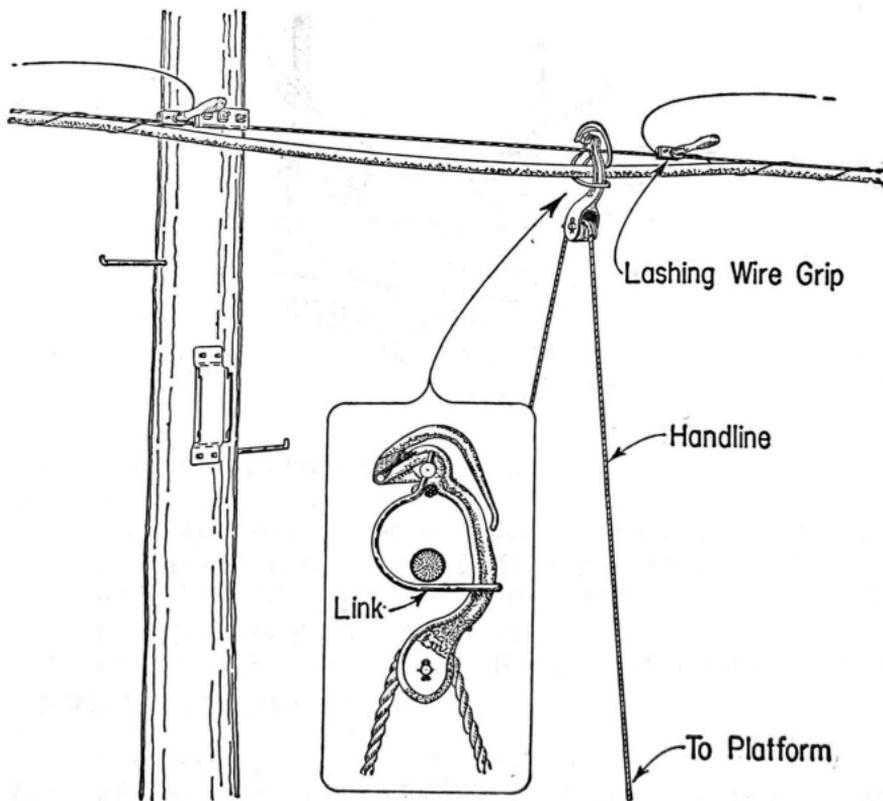
- (b) Do not place hot solder or paraffin pots directly on the platform. Paraffin and solder should preferably be suspended from the strand or ladder rung by means of a pot hook.
- (c) Paraffin and solder drippings should be removed from platform.
- (d) Coil the guy ropes before transporting the platform in a vehicle. When moving from one location to another, do not drag the ropes on the ground.
- (e) Platforms should not be dragged from one location to another.
- (f) Make sure that the support hooks have been properly attached to the strand.
- (g) The platform should be leveled before the guys are fastened.
- (h) Make sure that the guys are taut after the platform is loaded and that they have been tied in accordance with the method shown.
- (i) Avoid twists and kinks in the ropes. Rope kinks should be turned out by hand before the rope is stressed.
- (j) Avoid spilling solder or paraffin on ropes.
- (k) Ropes should be kept away from storage batteries or surfaces such as garage floors or truck platforms upon which acid or alkali may have been spilled.
- (l) Hooks should not be attached to guys at dead-end or false dead-end poles.
- (m) Always attach the hooks to the main strand at dead-end poles.
- (n) Tools or materials should not be placed on a platform where they are likely to roll off. They should preferably be kept in a splicer's tray or canvas bucket securely attached to the strand or in some other approved container.
- (o) Only approved heaters should be operated on the platform. Furnaces equipped with hoods may be used on the platform, but only when the regulator has been set to deliver gas at recommended heating pressure.
- (p) The body belt and safety strap shall be used when placing or removing the platform, and when working on the platform. When working on the platform, the free end of the safety strap should be passed through the other Dee ring before attaching the snap to the suspension strand.
- (q) In installing aerial tents or umbrellas, care should be exercised so as not to bring the tent or umbrella in contact with power leads or equipment.

2.04 The work area should be guarded as covered in the sections of Practices dealing with guarding work areas. Pedestrians and vehicles should be kept away from the area beneath a workman. This is especially necessary when the splicing operation involves soldering, wiping or boiling out operations.

2.05 Platforms should not be attached to or suspended from 2200-pound strand, or from any size strand which is attached to a building.

3. PLACING HANDLINE

3.01 Platforms are raised for installation by means of the aerial handline. On lashed cable the lashing wire should be clamped and cut and the cable lowered to obtain working space before placing the handline. Place the handline on the strand near the position to be occupied by the outer support ropes.



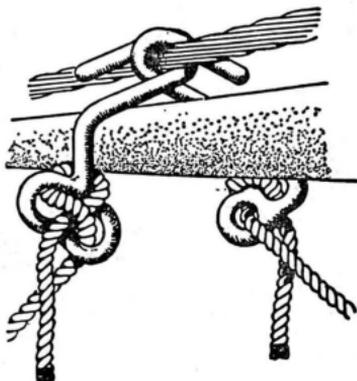
3.02 The method of attaching the handline to the platform is covered in other sections of the Practices.

4. HOOKS AND SADDLES

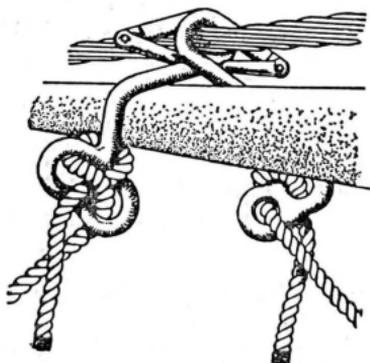
4.01 O Hooks, K Hooks and B Saddles are used to support the platform from the strand.

4.02 The methods of engaging these hooks and the saddle are shown. Make sure that O or K Hooks or B Saddles are properly attached to the support ropes before raising the platform.

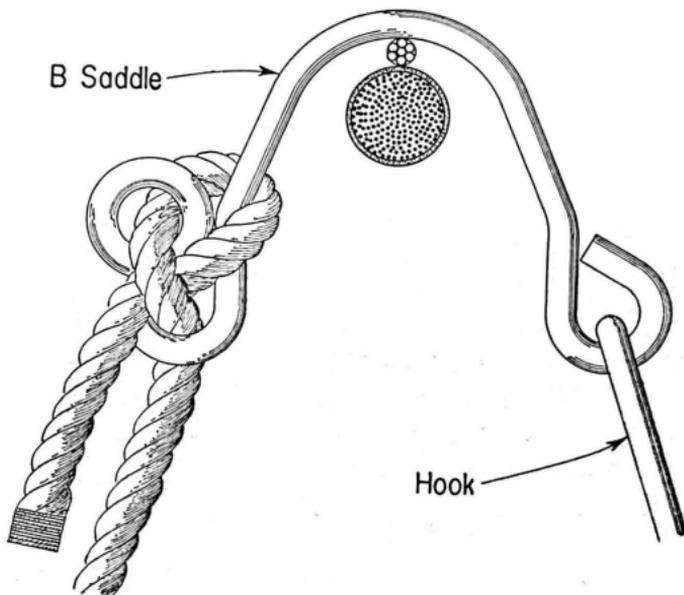
(a) Method of engaging O Hook.



(b) Method of engaging K Hook. The K Hook has a keeper.



(c) On lashed cable, the B Saddle is used. Place the B Saddle over the strand and engage the hook in the eye of the saddle.

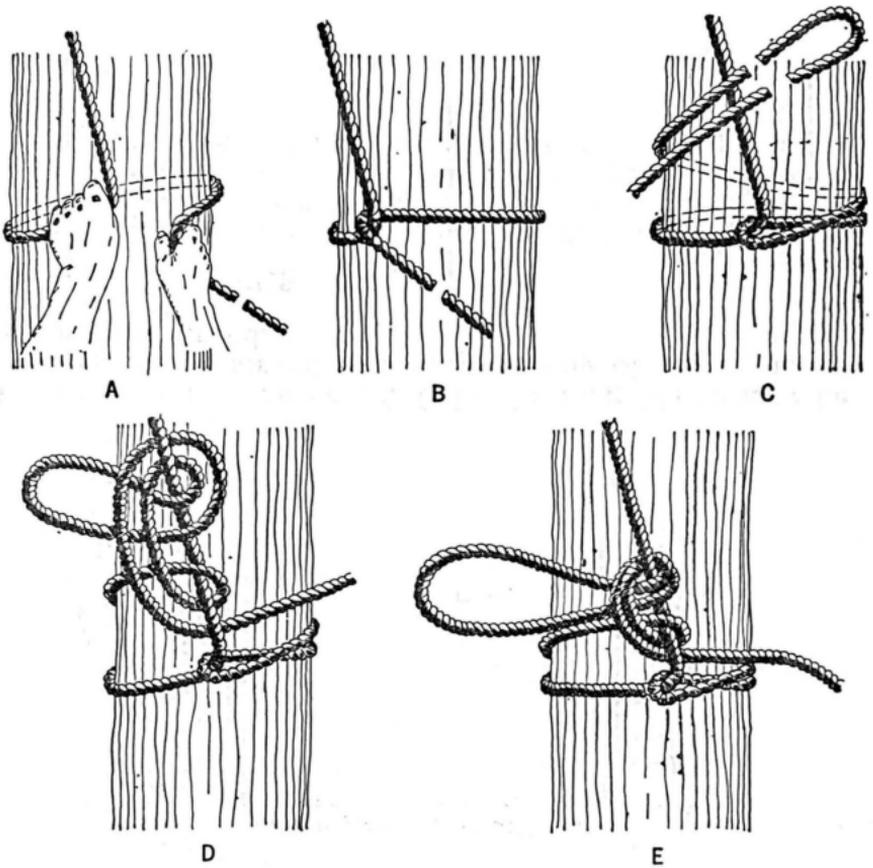


4.03 A one bolt clamp or a C Cable Lashing Clamp may be used on the strand to prevent sliding of the hooks or saddle along the strand.

5. TYING GUY ROPES

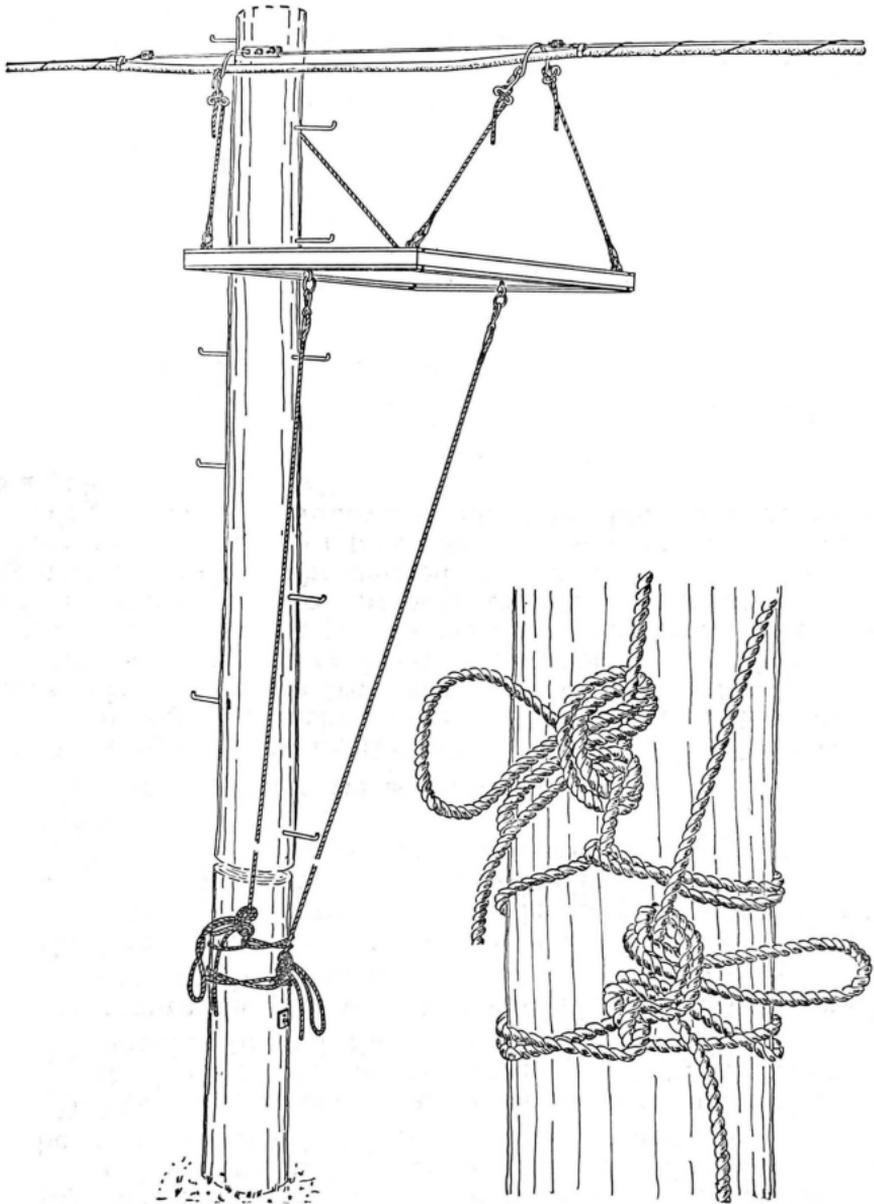
5.01 Before tying the guy ropes, the platform should be leveled. The length of the support ropes can be adjusted readily by moving them through the double eye of the hooks. **Rope adjustments should not be made when standing on the platform.**

5.02 **Tying Guy Ropes:** The operations required in tying guy ropes are illustrated and outlined below. Make sure that the snap hooks are properly engaged, where detachable guy ropes are used, before raising the platform.

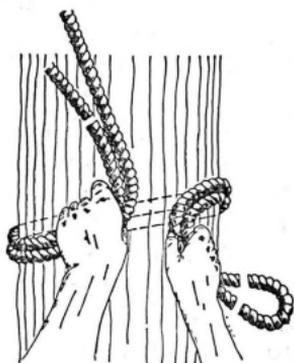


- (1) Facing the pole or side rail of the ladder from the side on which the platform is hung, grasp the guy rope on the left-hand side of the platform about 4-1/2 feet from the ground and pass the loose end back of the pole or ladder as indicated in (A). Place the hitch so that it will not interfere with pole steps.
- (2) Pass the loose end of the rope over the standing end and pull to the desired tension (B). The hitch should be made about 4-1/2 feet from the ground.
- (3) Pass the free end up and over the first turn and around the back of the pole as shown in (C). Hold the rope in this position to snub the pull on the platform.
- (4) Secure the pull with two half hitches on the standing rope as shown in (D).
- (5) The splicer should then stand underneath the right-hand side of the platform (which is the side opposite to the one just guyed) with his hands holding the rope firmly to make sure that the guy has been pulled sufficiently to level the platform.
- (6) The completed tie is shown in (E).

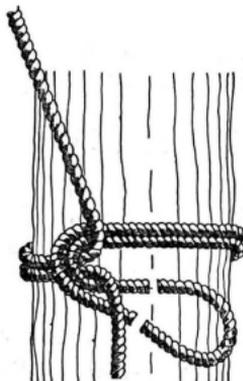
5.03 The guy rope on the other side of the platform should be secured to the pole or ladder just below the first tie. Since this rope comes from the opposite side of the platform, it must necessarily be snubbed in the opposite direction. To do this, hold the standing part in the right hand and pass the free end of the rope back of the pole. Pass the end over the standing part and pull to the desired tension. Complete the knot as before, keeping clear of pole steps to avoid obstruction of the climbing space. The following illustrates both guy ropes tied to a pole.



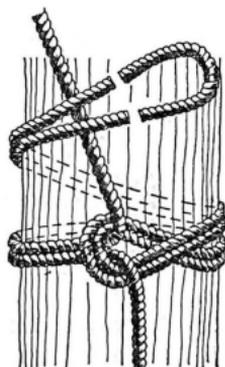
5.04 If the loose end of the guy rope is too long for convenient handling, double the rope and proceed as outlined in Paragraph 5.02. The following illustrates a guy rope tie with the rope doubled.



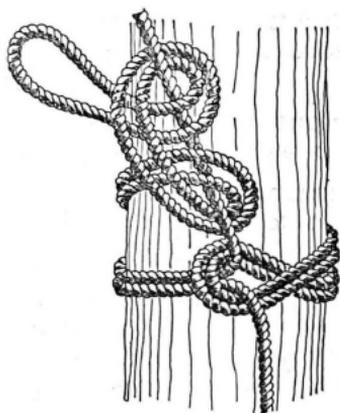
A



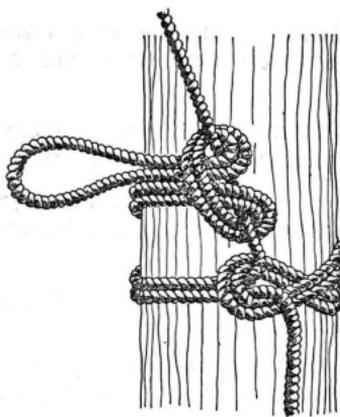
B



C



D



E

6. INSPECTION ROUTINE

6.01 Platforms should be inspected at about weekly intervals while in use to ensure that they are in good condition. If the platform is in need of repair or painting, it should be exchanged at once in accordance with the Company's established routine for one in good condition.

6.02 The important conditions which require replacement of the platform are:

- (a) Broken or cracked boards.
- (b) Defective hardware.
- (c) Loose bolts or screws.
- (d) Defective rope (see Part 7).

6.03 In addition to the above, on B and C Aerial Platforms check that the screw pins in the support rope shackles are turned down tight, and **that the ends of the pins are staked or riveted over so that they cannot come loose.**

7. INSPECTION OF ROPE

7.01 In view of the numerous conditions which may affect the strength of rope and as only part of the rope may be affected, examination should be made about once a week while the platform is in use to determine the condition of the rope throughout its length, as outlined in the following:

7.02 The important conditions to look for on the surface of the rope are:

- (a) Abrasion (broken fibres).
- (b) Cuts.
- (c) Extremely soft (badly worn rope is extremely soft and has lost its stretch).
- (d) Decayed or burnt by hot materials or chemicals.

7.03 At least once a month, separate the strands at three-foot intervals and at any other locations that look or feel suspicious for internal observations. The important conditions to look for are listed below:

- (a) Broken fibres. This condition can be distinguished by the presence of short unattached fibres in the core of the rope.
- (b) Fine powder which indicates presence of grit.
- (c) Mildew or mold.
- (d) Change in color of fibre. Compare the color of the fibre at various intervals to determine this.

7.04 When defective rope is found it should be replaced or the platform should be exchanged, depending on the Company's routine.

7.05 Where minor repairs are made in the field, worn or rotted support, guy or foot ropes should be replaced as follows:

- (a) On B and C Aerial Platforms replace with new guy, support, or foot ropes. After placing new support ropes, **stake the ends of the screw pins to hold them securely in the shackles.**
- (b) On other type platforms cut the old rope at the thimble. Thread one end of the new rope through the thimble and make an eye splice. To prevent raveling, a crown splice should be made at the free end of the rope. The method of making rope splices is described in the Section of the Practices dealing with Manila Ropes and Blocks.

7.06 When replacing a hook thread the support rope through the double eye as shown in the illustration in Paragraph 4.02.