SOLDERING EQUIPMENT AND WAX POTS

1. GAS SOLDERING FURNACES

1.01 Gas soldering furnaces should be mounted on iron shelves or other non-combustible supports firmly secured to the building structure, providing a clear air space of at least 1 inch between the furnace and the nearest surface of the structure. All combustible material within 18 inches of such furnace should be suitably protected. Furnaces should be connected to the gas supply by rigid pipes. Temporary installations employing flexible tubing should not be used.

1.02 A shut-off valve should be located in the supply line to each furnace. This valve should be near the furnace and should be in addition to the regular shut-off provided with the furnace.

2. ELECTRIC SOLDERING COPPERS

2.01 Where electric soldering coppers are used suitable stationary or portable holders should be made available to provide a rest for the coppers in order to minimize the possibility of leaving them where they might become a fire hazard.

3. OPEN FLAME TORCHES

3.01 Gasoline, kerosene or alcohol torches for heating soldering coppers or for other uses in telephone buildings should not be employed. For small jobs where other heating methods are not available solidified alcohol in small cans may be used.

3.02 Where an open flame torch is required for sweating operations, such as connecting power lugs, it is recommended that small portable outfits having tanks filled with acetone-moistened porous materials under pressure be used. These outfits are of such a nature as to prevent any hazardous dissociation of the gas from shocks, heat, electric sparks or other causes.

3.03 Torches should not be operated in switchboard sections or near combustible material. Where used near telephone equipment an extinguisher should be made available for instant use. It is desirable also to cover adjacent wire and other equipment with a flexible asbestos sheet and to take any precautions as may be necessary to catch sparks or molten metal drippings.

3.04 In certain cases of battery repairs it may be necessary to employ larger open flame devices but these should be used as infrequently as practicable and the equipment should not be stored in the building.

4. HEATING IMPREGNATING COMPOUND AND SOLDER

4.01 Paraffin, impregnating compound and solder should preferably be heated in electric wax and solder pots. If such equipment is not available the material may be heated by means of a kerosene furnace located as follows:

(a) Where practicable the furnace should be operated outside of the building and the heated material carried inside for use.

(b) In the event that a satisfactory place outside the building is not available or where difficulty would be experienced in carrying the heated material to the job, the heating may be done in a boiler room or other designated place where there is a minimum possibility of the lighted furnace becoming a fire hazard.

4.02 When paraffin or other impregnating compounds are heated inside a building, the heating device should not be located in switch or apparatus rooms. Also, the heating device should be located so as to insure that any fumes generated during heating do not enter switch or apparatus rooms through doors, cable slots, sleeves, etc., as these fumes, if in sufficient quantity, may have a detrimental effect on the functioning of the central office apparatus.