

POLE CLIMBING

1. Before climbing any pole or structure, an employee will take every possible precaution to ensure that it is safe to climb and work upon.
2. The strength of any pole must be tested before being climbed.
3. If a pole is found unsafe to climb, it shall be braced or guyed before being climbed.
4. Where the work on a pole involves a change in the direction or amount of strain, an employee shall make certain that the pole is of adequate strength to support the change in strain before climbing the pole.
5. A thorough pole test includes a visual inspection of the portion above the ground portion, a sound test from ground line to such height as can be conveniently reached and a probing inspection to a depth of 8 inches below ground line. Increment boring is necessary both above and below ground line level to determine true condition of center portion of pole and the amount of sound wood remaining.
6. When increment borings are made, indicating pole replacement is unnecessary, boring holes shall be plugged with treated wooded plugs.
7. Before climbing any pole, every line person must observe:
 - a. the type and position of the circuits
 - b. the location or position of the power source if lines are energized
 - c. the work to be done
 - d. the method(s) to be used
 - e. the clearance required to protect the working position
8. When climbing a pole, both hands shall be free for climbing
9. Line persons shall wear body belts when climbing poles and shall place safety belts around poles before attempting any work.
10. When climbing, avoid weathered cracks, checks, knots, shakes, and hard places to prevent spurs from slipping out.
11. Remove all nails, tacks, and unnecessary signs before ascending a pole.
12. Racing up and coasting down poles or sliding guys is prohibited.
13. Safety straps shall be used from the ground up when climbing a slippery or ice-covered pole, when a high wind is blowing, or when any other condition where the use of a safety strap will reduce the possibility of falling.

Date