

POLE CLIMBING PREPARATION



Working on utility poles can present some unique challenges and dangerous conditions. Therefore it is imperative that you receive the proper training for this type of work and are familiar with how to safely prepare to navigate these hazards.

Before climbing any pole, make sure that you are physically and medically capable of doing so. Whenever you are working more than four feet off the ground you should use a personal fall arrest system. In fact unless it can be demonstrated that climbing or changing location with the fall protection is infeasible or creates a greater hazard 100% fall protection is required when climbing wood poles.

Before any work can begin, make sure there is an emergency management plan in place with a supervisor. Gaffs should always be sharp and be checked frequently, using a climber's gauge. When tools need to be sharpened, use a honing stone. Never use a grindstone. Doing so can cause overheating and the gaff to lose strength.

Make sure to check body belts and safety straps for:

- Loose or broken rivets
- Cracks, nicks, or tears in leather
- Damaged buckles
- Defects in safety-belt snap hooks and body-belt D rings
- Worn leather
- Enlarged tongue holes for belt buckles

If you observe any of these conditions, have them repaired or discard the equipment and replace it.

Prior to commencing any work, carefully inspect poles. This will ensure that they are capable of withstanding unbalanced weight and are in safe condition for work to be done. Poles that appear to be unsafe to climb can be worked on from an approved aerial device. They can also be made safe for climbing by guying or bracing the pole. **See #20 inspecting wood poles.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What should you wear whenever you are working more than four feet off the ground?

When climbing wood poles partnership companies require 100% what?

What should you never use to sharpen a gaff?

What should you check for when inspecting body belts and safety straps?

How can you work on poles that are unsafe for climbing?

SAFETY TALK ATTENDANCE ROSTER



COMPANY: _____ JOB/DEPT: _____

DATE: ___/___/____ TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES:

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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

___/___/___
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

___/___/___
Date