

Summary Report for Individual Task
052-204-1124
Climb a Utility Pole
Status: Approved

DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

Condition: As a Power Line Distribution Specialist in a tactical or nontactical environment when installation, maintenance, or repairs to an overhead distribution system are needed at a minimum height of 35 feet, you are given applicable climbing and rigging equipment, a 2-pound hammer, a brace and a 3/8-inch bit, a 3/8-inch wooden dowel (one foot long), a shovel, and the applicable personal protective equipment (PPE). This task should not be trained in MOPP.

Standard: Climb a utility pole to a minimum height of 35 feet, circle right and assume a good working position and hang handline, circle left and assume a good working position, circle back right and remove handline and send it down to groundman, and descend the pole without gaffing out.

Special Condition: None

Special Standards: None

Special Equipment:

Safety Level: Low

MOPP: Never

Task Statements

Cue: None

DANGER

CLIMBING A POLE WITHOUT CORRECTLY ADJUSTING THE WOOD POLE FALL RESTRICTION DEVICE (WPFRD) ALWAYS CREATES A SIGNIFICANT SAFETY RISK TO THE USER. FOR THAT REASON, MANUFACTURERS MAKE VERY SPECIFIC CLIMBING/ADJUSTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS IN THEIR WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS.

WARNING

WHEN POSSIBLE, INDIVIDUALS NOT ASCENDING THE POLE MUST MAINTAIN A MINIMUM DISTANCE OF AT LEAST 10 FEET FROM THE BASE OF THE POLE TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE NOT STRUCK BY ANY INADVERTENTLY DROPPED OBJECTS. FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY CAUSE IMMEDIATE PERSONAL INJURY.

USE PROPER CLIMBING TECHNIQUES TO AVOID SLIPPING OR FALLING, WEAR LONG SLEEVES AND GLOVES TO AVOID SPLINTERS. WEAR PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR. FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY CAUSE IMMEDIATE PERSONAL INJURY.

IF A POLE IS FOUND TO BE DEFECTIVE, IT SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR RELACEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY CAUSE IMMEDIATE PERSONAL INJURY OR DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT.

CAUTION

None

Remarks: None

Notes: When performing this task, ensure that the proper climbing technique is used. Start six inches above the ground with subsequent steps being eight to ten inches. Your feet should not be directly above one another. Maintain adequate spacing between your heels. The toes of your feet should be pointing up and out with your weight on your heels. Use your legs to climb, not your arms. Keep your body straight and your knees away from the pole at all times. Ensure that you use the inverted-J method when inserting the gaff into the pole, and always lock your weight-supporting leg.

Performance Steps

1. Perform a utility pole serviceability inspection.

a. Visually inspect the pole for—

- (1) Shell rot.
- (2) Large cracks or splits.
- (3) Signs of soil erosion around the pole base.
- (4) Hollow spots.
- (5) Woodpecker holes.
- (6) Burned spots.

WARNING

ALWAYS BE AWARE OF OBJECTS THAT ARE OVERHEAD WHEN SOUNDING THE POLE. LOOSE OR ROTTED ITEMS MAY FALL AND CAUSE IMMEDIATE PERSONAL INJURY OR EQUIPMENT DAMAGE.

NOTE: Strike the pole in several different locations and at different heights. A good pole will sound solid when struck with a hammer. A decayed pole will sound hollow or like a drum.

b. Perform a sound test with a 2-pound hammer; and check for butt rot, shell rot, and heart rot.

c. Perform a probe test with the brace and bit if necessary.

(1) Remove the dirt around the pole to a depth of 12 to 18 inches and an area wide enough to operate the brace and bit.

(2) Drill a 3/8-inch hole below the ground line into the butt of the pole at a downward angle of 30° to 45°.

(3) Ensure that you drill deep enough to reach the center of the pole.

(4) Check the wood shavings for decay.

(5) Plug the drilled hole with a 3/8-inch wooden dowel to prevent further decay.

(6) Fill the hole in with dirt, and tamp it.

d. Mark the poles that do not pass the tests so that they are easily identified.

2. Inspect equipment.

a. Inspect PPE.

b. Inspect climbing equipment.

c. Inspect tools.

d. Inspect the handline.

3. Lay out the handline, and attach it to the body belt.

4. Ascend the utility pole until you are eye level with the lag screw.

Note: When performing this task, ensure that you use the proper climbing technique. Start six inches above the ground with subsequent steps being eight to ten inches apart. Your feet should not be directly above one another. Maintain adequate spacing between your heels. Your toes should be pointing up and out with your weight on your heels. Use your legs to climb, not your arms. Keep your body straight and your knees away from the pole at all times. Ensure that you use the inverted-J method when inserting the gaff into the pole, and always lock your weight-supporting leg.

5. Circle to the right until you are positioned directly below the crossarm.

6. Assume a good working position that allows you to reach the end of the crossarm.

a. Hang handline on crossarm from the work position.

b. Return to the start position.

7. Circle to the left until you are positioned directly below the crossarm.

8. Assume a good working position that allows you to reach the end of the crossarm, and then return to the start position.

9. Circle back to the right until you are positioned directly below the crossarm.

a. Assume a good work position.

b. Remove handline from crossarm.

c. Headache handline to groundman.

d. Return to start position in center of pole.

10. Descend the pole.

Note: When descending the pole, ensure that you follow proper technique. Keep your body straight, keep your knees away from the pole, and lock your weight-supporting leg. Ensure that your weight remains on your heel, aim your gaff toward the heart of the pole below your body, and let your body weight aid in your descent as the gaff penetrates the pole. Ensure that your uppermost leg is horizontal with the ground each time you drop. Remove the upper gaff by moving your upper knee away from the pole, and ensure that your last step is approximately six inches above the ground.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

Evaluation Preparation: Provide the Soldier with the items in the conditions. Give the Soldier a safety briefing before starting the test, and ensure that all safety precautions are followed. Prepare testing area and equipment in advance to ensure that the task standards can be met.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Performed a utility pole serviceability inspection.			
2. Inspected equipment.			
3. Laid out the handline and attached it to the body belt.			
4. Ascended the utility pole until he was eye level with the lag screw.			
5. Circled to the right until he was positioned directly below the crossarm.			
6. Assumed a good working position that allowed him to reach the end of the crossarm and hung the handline.			
7. Circled to the left until he was positioned directly below the crossarm.			
8. Assumed a good working position that allowed him to reach the end of the crossarm and then returned to the start position.			
9. Circled right and assumed a good work position to remove handline and properly headached it to the ground man then returned to the center of the pole.			
10. Descended the pole without gaffing out.			

Supporting Reference(s):

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	EM 385-1-1	Safety and Health Requirements.	No	No
	LCH	The Lineman's and Cableman's Handbook, 11th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2007	No	No
	TM 3-34.86	Rigging Techniques, Procedures, and Applications {MCRP 3-17.7j}	No	No
	TM 5-682	Facilities Engineering: Electrical Facilities Safety.	No	No
	TM 5-684	Facilities Engineering - Electrical Exterior Facilities. NAVFAC MO-200/AFJMAN 32-1082.	No	No

Environment: Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to FM 3-34.5 Environmental Considerations and GTA 05-08-002 ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED RISK ASSESSMENT.

For classroom instruction:

No major environmental impact, training entirely of an administrative or classroom nature, with little or no environmental impact on the environment, equipment or personnel. [32 CFR Part 651, Appendix B, Section II, (i)(2)]

For practical exercises and demonstrations:

Instructors should complete a risk assessment before conducting training, operations, or logistical activities. Risk assessments assist instructors in identifying potential environmental hazards, develops controls, make risk decisions, implement controls, and ensure proper supervision and evaluation. FM 3-100.4, Environmental Considerations in Military Operations.

Safety: In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination. In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5,

Prerequisite Individual Tasks : None

Supporting Individual Tasks :

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
052-204-1126	Perform a Crossarm Change Out	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1120	Install a Grounding Set	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1122	Install Distribution Equipment (De-energized)	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1117	Inspect Hot-Line Equipment	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Analysis Completed
052-204-1121	Install High-Intensity Lights and Ballasts	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1123	Secure Conductor to Insulator (De-energized)	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1202	Maintain Rigging/Hoisting Equipment	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Analysis Completed
052-204-2216	Perform Maintenance on Electrical Distribution Equipment	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1123	Secure Conductor to Insulator (De-energized)	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Analysis Completed
052-204-2209	Install Distribution Equipment (Energized)	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-3015	Supervise the Sagging of Overhead Conductors	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1114	Rescue an Injured Victim From a Utility Pole	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-2210	Secure Conductor to Insulator (Energized)	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-3016	Supervise the Stringing of Overhead Conductors	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Approved
052-204-1204	Tie Rope Knots and Splices	052 - Engineer (Individual)	TMD Review

Supported Individual Tasks :

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
052-204-1201	Maintain Climbing Equipment	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Reviewed
052-204-1211	Install Distribution System Protection and Equipment (De-energized)	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Analysis Completed
052-204-2217	Manage a Power Line Crew	052 - Engineer (Individual)	Analysis

Supported Collective Tasks :

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
05-3-5700	Install Nonstandard Low-Voltage, Electrical-Power Distribution Equipment	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Approved
05-3-5701	Install Low-Voltage, Electrical-Power Distribution Equipment	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Approved
05-3-5725	Install Aerial Electrical Power Distribution Equipment	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Approved
05-3-5728	Assess Power Generation Systems for Damage	05 - Engineers (Collective)	Approved

ICTL Data :

ICTL Title	Personnel Type	MOS Data
MOS 12Q10 ICTL	Enlisted	MOS: 12Q, Skill Level: SL1