Pole Top Rescue

SaskPower

Training & Development Centre

TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

TRAINING MANUAL

12/17/98
POLE TOP RESCUE

OBJECTIVE:
From memory, you will be able to describe and/or demonstrate the procedure used to lower a worker from a pole.

WHY?
In any personal injury, prompt treatment can minimize pain and reduce the severity of the injury.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. Describe the situations where pole top rescue may be required.
2. List the five rescue steps.
3. List the six steps of lowering a worker from a pole.
4. Demonstrate the procedure to perform pole top rescue.
IN THIS MODULE:

1. Pole Top Rescue
2. Five Steps to Pole Top Rescue
3. Six Steps to Lower an Injured Person

RESOURCES:

• Lineman’s Information Manual
• Climbing gear, hard hat, hand line and 3/8 inch rope
• “Pole Top Rescue” video

ESTIMATED TIME:

2 hours

PREREQUISITES:

• None

LEARNING STEPS:

1. Cover the module.
2. Watch the video “Pole Top Rescue”.
4. Clarify any questions you may have.
5. Complete the Skills Practice.
Pole Top Rescue

Many circumstances can occur where a lineman is unable to climb down a pole by himself. A person may be injured, lose consciousness or become ill.

In the case of electrical shock, injury can be severe and often the injured person will stop breathing. Time is extremely important. Brain damage can occur after four minutes if CPR is not applied.

In some instances, a rescue can be done faster and safer by other methods. An example would be using a bucket truck or digger winch. In any case, time is the deciding factor, and faster is better.

A bucket truck is not always present or set up, so pole top rescue is the preferred method of safely lowering someone.

Now...Complete Review Questions #1 to #4.

Linemen should develop the good habit of carrying a hand line up the pole, particularly on energized poles. It is also important to keep hand lines in good condition and accessible on your work vehicles.
Five Steps to Pole Top Rescue

To safely perform pole top rescue, five basic steps are stressed. They are:
• Evaluate the situation
• Provide for your protection
• Climb to rescue position
• Assess injured person’s condition
• Lower injured person to ground if necessary

These steps are simple and easily remembered. By following them, your safety is considered and confusion during an emergency can be avoided.

Evaluate the Situation

If the person on the pole does not answer or is dazed, pole top rescue will have to be performed. Whether he can be rescued by a bucket truck or hand line must be decided quickly.

Provide for Your Protection

Your safety is vital to the rescue. If you get hurt, there may be no one around to rescue you.

Providing for your protection may mean any number of things, such as de-energizing the line, taking up rubber gloves, or looking for potential hazards.

Climb to Rescue Position

Climb carefully to the rescue position, being aware of any hazards such as live risers, and belt in where you can best help the injured person.
Assess Injured Person’s Condition

Because no two situations are alike, you may have to make quick decisions. If the injured person is conscious, time may not be as critical or immediate first aid may not have to be given. In most cases, lowering the injured person to the ground to perform CPR and first aid is preferred and more effective. It should be noted that once CPR has been started there must be no interruptions.

Lower Injured Person

When lowering the injured person, care must be taken to prevent further injury. This is done through six steps which will be discussed in the next section.

Now...Complete Review Questions #5 to #7.
Six Steps to Lower An Injured Person

There are six steps to lowering an injured person during pole top rescue. This method is preferred because it is safe, simple, and done with readily available material — a hand line.

The six steps to remember when lowering an injured person are:

• Position hand line
• Tie injured person with an approved knot
• Remove slack in hand line
• Take a firm grip on the fall line
• Cut injured person’s pole strap
• Lower injured person to ground and apply first aid

Following these steps, you can lower an injured person quickly and safely by yourself. This procedure should be practised regularly so a rescue, if necessary, can be done efficiently.

Position Hand Line

It is important to position the hand line away from the pole so that the injured person does not snag hardware and has a clear path to the ground. The hand line is looped around the crossarm once, and not over top of itself or it will bind (one wrap).

Tie Injured

The injured person is tied around the chest with three half-hitch knots tying the rope together.

Remove Slack in Hand Line

All slack is removed so the injured person is not “jerked” unnecessarily.

Take Firm Grip on Fall Line

After the slack is removed, one hand will have to hold the fall line so the injured person does not fall when his pole strap is cut.
Cut Injured Person’s Pole Strap

When lowering someone after an accident, you may be unnerved and rushed. Care must be taken not to cut your own pole strap instead of the injured person’s.

Lower Injured Person

The injured person should be lowered smoothly and gently. Avoid jerks and stops as you guide the rope that is wrapped around the injured person with one hand and lower the fall line with the other. Once the injured person is on the ground, CPR should be administered if necessary.

For more information, refer to the Lineman’s Information Manual, Section A, pages 73 to 80.
Summary

To summarize this module, you have learned:

• When to perform pole top rescue.
• Five steps to pole top rescue.
• Six steps to lowering an injured person.

Now...

• Complete the remainder of the Review Questions.
• Clarify any concerns or questions, you may have.
• Complete the Skills Practice.
Describe the situations where pole top rescue may be required.

1. An unconscious and non-breathing person will suffer brain damage after (2/4/10) minutes.

T / F 2. Time is of the utmost importance in the treatment of electric shock.

T / F 3. Pole top rescue is the preferred and only way to retrieve a victim from a pole.

T / F 4. Linemen are encouraged to take hand lines up to their work area to speed up pole top rescue should an accident occur.

List the five rescue steps.

5. List, in order, the five steps in pole top rescue:

   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________

T / F 6. In the event of an accident, safety rules can be ignored to rescue an injured person.

T / F 7. First aid and CPR should always be administered up the pole before lowering the injured person.
List the six steps of lowering a worker from a pole.

8. List, in order, the six steps to lower a worker from a pole:

9. An injured person should be tied with:
   (a) two half-hitches.
   (b) three half-hitches.
   (c) a running bow line.
   (d) all of the above

10. When positioning the hand line to lower an injured worker:
    (a) position it close to the pole.
    (b) wrap it around the crossarm at least three times.
    (c) do not wrap it across itself.
    (d) all of the above

T / F 11. Pole top rescue should be practiced regularly.

Now...Ask your instructor for assistance if required. Additional examples may be available.
SKILLS PRACTICE

Pole Top Rescue

This section is intended to be a practice for your Power Line Apprenticeship practical exams. Perform each task, as described, under the direction and observation of a competent person. They will complete the checklist and give you appropriate feedback.

Demonstrate the procedure to perform pole top rescue.

1. Demonstrate the five basic rescue steps:
   ___ Evaluate the job site, keeping in mind you may have better rescue options.
   ___ Provide for your protection from any hazards, and gather any equipment necessary to do the job safely.
   ___ Climb to rescue position carefully and with a hand line, if necessary.
   ___ Assess the injured person and decide when to apply first aid and how to lower.
   ___ Lower injured carefully using the six approved steps.

2. Using the approved pole top rescue method, demonstrate the procedure to lower a victim.
   ___ Position hand line away from the pole and any hardware.
   ___ Wrap the hand line to crossarm, one wrap and not crossed.
   ___ Tie injured around chest with three half-hitches.
   ___ Remove slack from hand line.
   ___ Take firm grip on fall line while cutting pole strap.
   ___ Cut injured person’s pole strap, keeping in mind your strap will be in close vicinity.
   ___ Lower injured person smoothly to the ground with one hand and guide him away from obstructions with the other hand.
# REVIEW QUESTION SOLUTIONS

## Pole Top Rescue

1. **4**
   2. **True**
   3. **False**
   4. **True**
   5. **Evaluate the situation.**
      - **Provide for your protection.**
      - **Climb to rescue position.**
      - **Assess injured.**
      - **Lower injured.**
   6. **False**
   7. **False**
   8. **Position hand line.**
   9. **b**
   10. **c**
   11. **True**
   12. **Tie injured.**
   13. **Remove slack from hand line.**
   14. **Take firm grip on fall line.**
   15. **Cut injured person’s pole strap.**
   16. **Lower injured.**