

# ACCESSING JOINT USER POLES (CLIMBING)



## METHODOLOGY

### Guarding of Works

All works must be in accordance with Safety at Street Works Code of Practice (RED Book) With the work area adequately guarded and protected.

### Pole Testing and Inspections

PRIOR to climbing or working on any pole, you must complete a pole test and inspection: Please refer to Pole testing and Inspection method statement in the Team pack

### Joint User Pole Marking & Proximities

- Poles will generally be marked with a circular or square label, black on white, with the letter "J" to indicate they are a designated joint user pole. This label must be affixed if a pole is on-boarded as a new joint user pole. (Pole labels may vary from DNO to DNO and teams must confirm label meanings with individual DNOs if in doubt)
- A circular label with a number, black on white indicates the maximum number of attachments permitted.
- As with PIA poles, a D label indicates a defective pole that will require replacement
- A Client-branded label indicating the presence of optical fibre cables and client's emergency contact information must be installed on the pole when cabling is installed. Cables must be labelled to indicate the operator name and logo, as well as the cable identifier
- The minimum separation on the pole between the first telecoms equipment – cable anchors or block terminal/closure – is 500mm from the lowest wire and 800mm from the live wire in an open wire system. Assume 800mm minimum separation by default, as live wires may come off the pole lower than the neutral
- All telecoms cables will be below the DNO plant except with prior agreement with the DNO where all plant is insulated.
- Crossings between cables must achieve at least 600mm clearances with a 45-degree swing in either direction of either cable. Where bare wires are used, this clearance must increase to 900mm. Within 600mm of pole/building fixings, only

### Climbing and Securing ladders & Tools

Both hands must be free when climbing, all hand tools must be secured in your tool bag or tethered to your harness. Climbing with tools in your hand is prohibited.

Whenever possible aim to climb on the side of the pole from which you intend to work. Look for problems before you start.

- Climb unencumbered
- Use the ladder climbing technique of moving foot and hand on the same side together.
- Grip the ladder rungs, not the stiles.
- When your shoulders are about the same level as the top of the ladder, you must lash the ladder to the pole

When you reach the pole steps, you can use them as hand holds and steps. However, you must test every step before you put your weight on them. Always check for loose or badly corroded pole steps as you climb. Look for and replace any steps marked 1CDD88.

### Climbing Joint User poles

1. Sites must be set up in a manner that permits safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles using correct signage and barriers. Before attempting the work, a full pre-climb check should be carried out to ensure the Pole is safe to climb. (Please refer to
2. Ensure that you have correctly donned all PPE, get a member of your team to check your harness to ensure none of the straps are twisted.
3. Place the 7A Blue Fibre glass ladder against the Pole ensuring that it meets the first set of step pegs and is at an approximate 75 degrees (the 1 and 4 rule).



## HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

- Working at Height
- Falling Objects
- Contact with Electrical services
- Live Traffic
- Pedestrians
- Weather
- Flora / Fauna



## PLANT, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS

- Gate Guards, Barriers, Signs, Cones
- Level 2 Tetra Ladder System
- Tool carry belt (tool tethers)
- Ultrasonic Height measuring device
- Probe & Hammer



## EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

- Ensure you are familiar with the emergency arrangements detailed in the CPP.
- All work vehicles to carry First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher. Ensure provisions are readily available and easily accessible.
- If a fall occurs, self-rescue procedure outlined in BT Accreditation unit (S8).



## ENVIRONMENTAL

- Ensure good housekeeping is maintained at all times.
- Ensure a pre-work check is carried out for any environmental risks.
- Spill kits must be available on the vehicle at all times.



## PPE REQUIREMENTS

*PPE items shown below must be available and worn wear necessary during this task.*

- Avonline approved footwear which is designated as suitable for climbing.
- A Safety Helmet must be worn at all times when working on, or near, a pole. The chin strap must be worn and fastened.
- It is recommended that you wear Gloves when climbing poles, to protect against creosote, splinters and rough edges of pole steps.
- Wear safety glasses when the task requires.
- High visibility clothing must be worn at all times.
- Full body harness, fall arrest lanyard and pole belt.
- **Operatives must be attached at all times whilst on the pole.**



## COSHH

*Refer to COSHH Assessments for further information*

Creasot seepage from Pole during hot weather (wear gloves where applicable)

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- Once the ladder is propped up and stable, lash the ladder to the Pole at roughly chest height and secure tightly using the ratchet system. If there is still movement in the ladder, disconnect and strap and re-secure.
- Connect the chest level D ring from your harness to the Tetra Level 2 Fall Arrest System.
- Climb the ladder, using safe climb method maintaining 3 points of contact at all times, until you reach a suitable distance from the step pegs.
- Once at the top of the ladder, loop your fall arrest lanyard around the pole and step pegs a few pegs up from the top of the ladder. Once your fall arrest lanyard is secure, you can then disconnect yourself from the ladder fall arrest.
- When secure, climb the first few step pegs until the fall arrest lanyard is around hip height. Re-adjust the fall arrest lanyard and move it to the next highest step pegs. Repeat this process until the desired height is met.
- Once set at the correct height, the pole belt needs to be looped around at hip height and connected to the D rings to the work harness. This will secure the Operative to be able to work with both hands free.
- On descending repeat this process in reverse.



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