

## **Excerpt from EDM Pole Conference Proceedings**

### **VISUAL INSPECTION (Walk or Drive by)**

#### **BENEFITS**

- ▶ Least experience
- ▶ Requires minimal training
- ▶ Detects external problems (mechanical damage, external rot)
- ▶ Detects presence of pole top assembly problems
- ▶ Detects evidence of internal problems
- ▶ Detects evidence and/or presence of electrical component problems

### **VISUAL INSPECTION (Walk or Drive by)**

#### **LIMITATIONS**

- ▶ Unable to define the location or extent of internal problems
- ▶ Unable to detect below ground-line problems
- ▶ Generally, does not quantify pole top or assembly
- ▶ May leave a dangerous pole in service
- ▶ Provides little information to line managers

## **VISUAL + SOUNDING INSPECTION**

### **BENEFITS**

- ▶ Similar cost as visual only
- ▶ Experienced staff provides more reliable assessments
- ▶ Defines location and extent of above ground-line internal damage in the near ground-line zone
- ▶ Detects severe internal decay or insect damage

## **VISUAL + SOUNDING INSPECTION**

### **LIMITATIONS**

- ▶ Same basic limitations as visual inspection
- ▶ Variation in judgment between inspectors
- ▶ Unable to detect moderate decay or insect damage
- ▶ Unable to detect potentially dangerous below ground-line problems or internal damage above the reach of the inspector
- ▶ Provides general quality information and limited management information

**VISUAL + SOUNDING + BORING**  
**(Above Ground-line)**

**BENEFITS**

- ▶ Benefits of visual and sounding
- ▶ Defines severity of internal problems at the location of the boring only
- ▶ Provides information for crude ANSI 05.1-based strength assessment
- ▶ Defines the nature of internal problems (insect, decay, etc.)
- ▶ Better defines management options for structure
- ▶ Provides basic management information from ground-line to pole top

**VISUAL + SOUNDING + BORING**  
**(Above Ground-line)**

**LIMITATIONS**

- ▶ Increased expense
- ▶ Requires experienced inspector
- ▶ Investment in maintenance equipment
- ▶ Unable to detect below ground-line problems (internal/external)
- ▶ May create avenues for decay
- ▶ May miss or underestimate the extent of problems

## **VISUAL + SOUNDING + BORING + EXCAVATE + RETREATMENT**

### **BENEFITS**

- ▶ Same benefits of visual + sounding + boring
- ▶ Provides good return on investment
- ▶ Defines presence and extent of shell rot
- ▶ Defines presence, size and extent of internal decay and/or insect damage at the location of the borings in the near ground-line zone
- ▶ Limits advancement of problems thru retreatment
- ▶ Provides good management information

## **VISUAL + SOUNDING + BORING + EXCAVATE + RETREATMENT**

### **LIMITATIONS**

- ▶ Increased expense
- ▶ Requires experienced inspector
- ▶ Requires additional management considerations for digging crews
- ▶ Requires pesticide applicators' license for persons handling treatment chemicals
- ▶ Additional consideration for shipping, handling, storage and disposal of chemicals and containers
- ▶ Disturbs what may have been sterile soil conditions
- ▶ May miss or underestimate the extent of internal problems