

1. Target Keyword: Utility Pole Inspections to Measure Rot or Strength
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What's the current state of your utility poles? How old are they, and how solid? Over time, wood can rot and decay, be eaten away by insects, or develop any number of other problems that spell disaster for utility poles. If a pole gives out unexpectedly, it's a nightmare on several different levels. Not only can it disrupt electrical, telephone, and a variety of other types of service for people in the area, it causes even bigger problems for you as the owner, as well as all the other people who make use of the pole. Not the least of these issues is liability.

There are a number of factors that determine your poles' strength and how long they'll last. For instance, what [part of the country](#) are they in? Has the wood been given any special treatment, or simply left alone? With a little effort, you can minimize problems simply by making sure your poles are sturdy enough to perform their function.

The way to make sure of that is through utility pole inspections to measure rot or strength in the wood. Having your poles professionally inspected periodically gives you an idea of how much longer they can be expected to last. Here are [some of the tests](#) that a utility pole inspector will perform:

- **Visual inspection.** Many of the utility pole inspections to measure rot or strength can be performed with the naked eye, simply by looking closely enough. Is there visible rot or decay in the wood? Are there cracks, holes, burn marks, or other imperfections in the structure? These things can significantly impact a utility pole's ability to handle stress.
- **Soil test.** What's the ground like around the pole? If it's made up of soft, loose, or wet soil, it might have problems supporting the pole, particularly through changes in stress. Also, how deeply is it buried? Is there evidence that it used to be buried deeper than it currently is? If so, it may not be planted solidly enough.
- **Hammer test.** The inspector takes a hammer and, starting at the bottom, strikes the pole sharply. This is continued every few inches, up to about six feet. The resulting sounds from the utility pole can indicate its structural integrity. Sturdy, solid wood will produce a clear, resonating sound. At places where there might be rot or decay, the wood will produce more of a dull thud. The hammer will also rebound more sharply on solid wood.
- **Bore test.** If any points of probable decay are found, the inspector bores into them with a drill. This allows them to measure the level of decay within the pole.

Once the inspection has been performed, the pole can be treated to prevent further damage. Utility pole inspections to measure rot or strength are essential for any pole owner. Not only do they decrease your liability, they can greatly

extend your pole's life. With proper treatment and periodic inspections, your pole can stand tall and strong for years to come.

2. Target Keyword: Performing Inventory on Joint Use Assets

Page Title: Performing Inventory & Managing Joint Use Assets

Utility poles can be used by a variety of sources at once, from electrical to cable to telecommunications, and more. Each of these entities has their own set of equipment and attachments installed on the same pole. And with these attachments comes [a variety of regulations](#) and permits for what can be installed and how.

In addition, there are liability issues surrounding this equipment. If one company, whether through malice or through oversight, installs an attachment they don't have a permit for, or installs something poorly, they need to be responsible if something goes wrong.

For this reason, performing inventory on joint use assets is essential. Utility pole owners and users need to know which company is responsible for which pieces of equipment. But there may be a number of companies and a great deal of equipment to keep track of, across a great many utility poles. You need to be able to collect all of that data from each of the different locations and integrate it into a single database. How can you ensure that all the data is collected, processed, and stored accurately? It's all a matter of using the right tools.

Using Inventory Software

With the right [software platform](#), performing inventory on joint use assets is much easier to deal with. A program like Collect lets you keep track of all your utility poles using GPS and mapping software. This way, you can log the precise location of each pole, what attachments are associated with each one, and who's responsible for them.

Users can also specify exactly what data they want to collect for each asset and alter the parameters at a moment's notice if their needs change. This includes locations and identification (serial numbers, etc.) for each pole, as well as photos, project notes, task reminders, and more.

You can also monitor different poles and different attachments on those poles. Then, all of the data stored can be converted into usable information to help you plan a course of action. You can keep track of costs, schedule maintenance and repairs, manage inspection tests performed, and a host of other tasks.

Inventory Technicians

With many software solutions, you can also hire [actual technicians](#) to perform the asset inventory for your company. They'll locate and catalog all of the poles that you own or are otherwise attached to, create records of which attachments are yours and which belong to others, and integrate all of that data with your existing records. So you have all the information you need at your fingertips, without having to do the work.

This type of software works not just with utility poles, but for performing inventory on joint use assets of all types. You can use it for street lights, parking meters, storm drains, and any other map-based physical assets. If you have a lot of locations and equipment on which you need data, a software solution like Collect is the most efficient way to keep track of it all.

3. Target Keyword: The Challenges of Joint Use Utility Poles
Page Title: The Challenges of Joint Use Utility Poles

Joint use utility poles can be a major point of contention between the various companies that use them. There are cost issues, liability issues, and more. These often stem from who's responsible for which attachments, along with a lack of communication between the pole owner and the others using it. Here are [three of the challenges](#) of joint use utility poles and what you can do to prevent them.

Compliance

All of the attachments to a utility pole are strictly regulated. They must have permits and meet certain guidelines of the NESC, the [FCC](#), and other industry standards. But a lot of joint use utility poles end up with illegal attachments on them, put up without permits, or that are otherwise not in compliance.

It's generally not deliberate malfeasance. But with all of that equipment to keep track of, sometimes a permit can be overlooked and things can slip in under the radar. However, no matter if it's intentional or not, or who owns the equipment, you, as pole owner, are responsible for it and any issues it may cause.

The solution to this problem is to take regular inventory of your utility poles. Keeping abreast of what's attached to your poles at any given time and who it belongs to will help you avoid these oversights.

Overloading

This problem often stems from a lack of compliance, or simply poor planning. If you don't know how much equipment is attached to a particular pole, you could end up with too much on it. Then the pole could break under the extra load, causing outages, as well as serious damage and potential injury (and subsequent lawsuits).

Regular inventory can help in this instance too, but it's also important to perform strength and rot inspections on your poles. Even if a pole isn't overloaded by extra attachments, it may simply be too weak or damaged to hold up a regular load. In which case, it should be replaced immediately, before it gives out.

Double Poles

When you replace a utility pole, all of the attachments must be transferred from the old one to the new one. However, sometimes not all of the equipment makes the switch. You'll see two poles side by side, each with some of the attachments on it.

Like most of the challenges of joint utility poles, this is largely a result of bad communication. Someone may not have received the transfer notice. Someone else may have ignored or forgotten about it. With an [effective notification system](#), every company with attachments on a particular pole can be alerted to transfers (and reminded, when necessary). That way, everyone is on the same page, and double poles can be eliminated.

The challenges of joint use utility poles can be a major headache for the one who has to manage them. It's not an easy task keeping everything in order and all the users and attachments in line. But with a little planning and proper communication, you can keep everything running smoothly.

4. Target Keyword: Improving Pole Owner Attacher Communication
Page Title: Improving Pole Owner/Attacher Communication

Most of the [challenges](#) faced by utility pole owners are due to a lack of communication with the companies using their poles. Someone didn't get the order for a pole transfer. Someone else overlooked getting a permit for their attachment. As the owner, you have to deal with attachers not only from all different entities, but from unique industries.

This makes it that much harder to keep everyone on the same page. But in the end, you're the one liable for everything that happens to your utility pole, whether it's caused by you or by one of your attachers. So improving communication between pole owners and attachers is essential.

Joint Use Notification Systems

The best way to improve communication is with a [notification system](#). A web-based joint use system like [Notify](#) can help you keep in touch with all of your attachers for each of your utility poles. This allows you to contact them individually or en masse, keeping them informed of everything that's going on. It lets you organize everything from a single point of management, to reduce the headaches inherent in joint pole use. Here are some of the things a good joint use system will help you do:

- **Send alerts and reminders.** Set automatic, timed reminders to go out to your attachers individually, as a whole, or to certain ones in a specific group. For instance, you can let them know about a pole transfer and when it needs to be done, then send periodic notices to those who haven't completed it yet, gradually escalating in urgency until they take action. You can also get automated alerts, keeping you apprised of everyone's compliance on the transfer.
- **Streamline workflows.** Your notification system lets you define projects based on individual partner companies and customize a workflow for each one. You should also be able to separate them based on the type of work being done. This will help make sure everyone is up to speed on exactly what they're supposed to do at any given time.
- **Consolidate data.** Collect data from each of your partner companies and consolidate it into one all-encompassing database. You can then categorize it for easy access later. This consolidation can help give you an overview of the state of things, which you can then use to generate reports, both for yourself and your partner companies, to help make decisions for future courses of action.
- **Document management.** A good notification system will have tools for archiving important documents and communiques digitally for quick and easy access later by all of your partner companies. This not only leads to

better organization, but creates a paperless system that reduces costs and is more environmentally friendly.

Improving communication between utility pole owners and attachers is vital to the way you do business. Not only will it cut costs and allow you to operate more efficiently, it can also help you avoid disasters and liability issues. With a notification system in place, no one gets left in the dark.