Poles Shall be Set to the Following Depths			
Length of Pole (in feet)	Brand Location Distance from Butt (in feet)	Nominal Depth of Setting	
		In Soil	In Solid Rock
25	10	5’ – 0”	3’ – 6”
30	10	5’ – 6”	3’ – 6”
35 & 40	10	6’ – 0”	4’ – 0”
45	10	6’ – 6”	4’ – 6”
50	10	7’ – 0”	5’ – 3”
55	14	7’ – 6”	5’ – 9”
60	14	8’ – 0”	6’ – 0”

Notes

1. Setting depths for poles longer than 60 feet will be supplied on construction prints or refer to **OTRM 263**.
2. The setting depths shown on this Standard apply to round natural wood poles. They do not apply to laminated or other fabricated pole types.
3. All pole holes shall be dug as small in diameter as practicable. In general, the hole shall be only large enough to receive the butt of the pole and allow the use of the tamping bar around the pole for full depth of the hole after the pole is in place. The disturbance of a greater area of earth or rock than is necessary in digging the hole shall be avoided. Any part of a rock hole larger than twice the pole diameter at the ground line shall be counted as earth in determining pole setting depth.
4. The depth of holes on slopes shall be measured from the low or downhill side of the pole.
5. Where rock is encountered below ground line, nine inches of solid rock may be considered equivalent to one foot of soil.
6. All backfill is to be thoroughly tamped as it is being placed in order to assure a firm setting for the pole.
7. Poles shall be set so that the gains on adjacent poles face in opposite directions, except at dead-ends, where the gains of the last two poles shall be on the side facing the dead-end. Where there is an angle in the line place the gains so that the crossarm will split the angle.
8. Poles shall be set plumb except at a corner, dead-end, junction or other point of strain. They shall be set raked sufficiently against the strain (typically 12−18 inches or as field conditions and experience dictates) to allow for normal movement of pole due to the continued pull of the load.
9. In unstable soil increased setting depth and/or selected backfill may be required.
10. Appropriate physical protection shall be provided for poles installed in parking lots, in alleys, or next to driveways subject to vehicular traffic abrasion that would materially affect their strength. Refer also to **DTR 04.307** for clearances of poles to other objects.