

Practical Exercise Statement – Picket Fields

Time Allotted: 1 Hour

Purpose: This exercise is designed to review the principles of picket fields, and for students to construct a picket field as instructed.

Terminal Learning Objective: The students shall construct a picket field suitable for use as a portable anchor.

Enabling Learning Objectives: Given the appropriate equipment cache and following a period of review and instruction, the students shall construct a picket field.

Equipment Needed:

- 6-9 – 4' lengths 1" rolled steel pickets. (1" Rebar may be substituted as needed)
- Sledge Hammer
- 4 – 30' lengths 10mm. accessory cord or 1" tubular webbing
- 3 – Anchor straps or suitable substitute
- 6 – 2' lengths 1/2" rebar

Instructor's Notes: This exercise is designed for 4-6 students. The instructor should review the principles associated with the construction of picket fields specifically related to layout and soil evaluation prior to demonstration. The students should construct the picket field under the direction of the instructor utilizing the following principles.

- Select a location with suitable, stable soil
- Consider the most appropriate layout for anticipated load and soil conditions (i.e. 3-2-1, 3-3-3, etc.).
- Angle the pickets 15° away from load while driving
- Drive the pickets two-thirds their length into the ground
- Separate the pickets a distance equal to their length
- Construct the Spanish windlass using at least 2 wraps with rope and 4 wraps with webbing. Begin and end wraps with clove hitches and safety knots.
- Use 1/2" rebar to tension only until the pickets begin to move.
- Anchor the rope system to the picket field below the Spanish windlass wraps