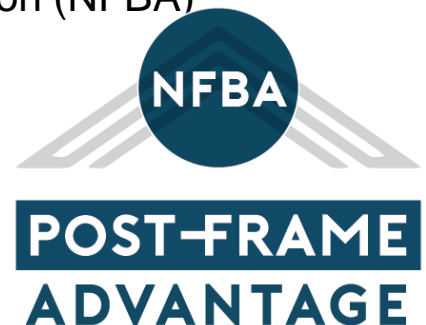


# SIMPLIFIED METHOD FOR SHALLOW POST AND PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN DETAILS



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Division of Plant Science and Technology; University of Missouri  
University of Missouri Extension  
Consultant to the National Frame Building Association (NFBA)

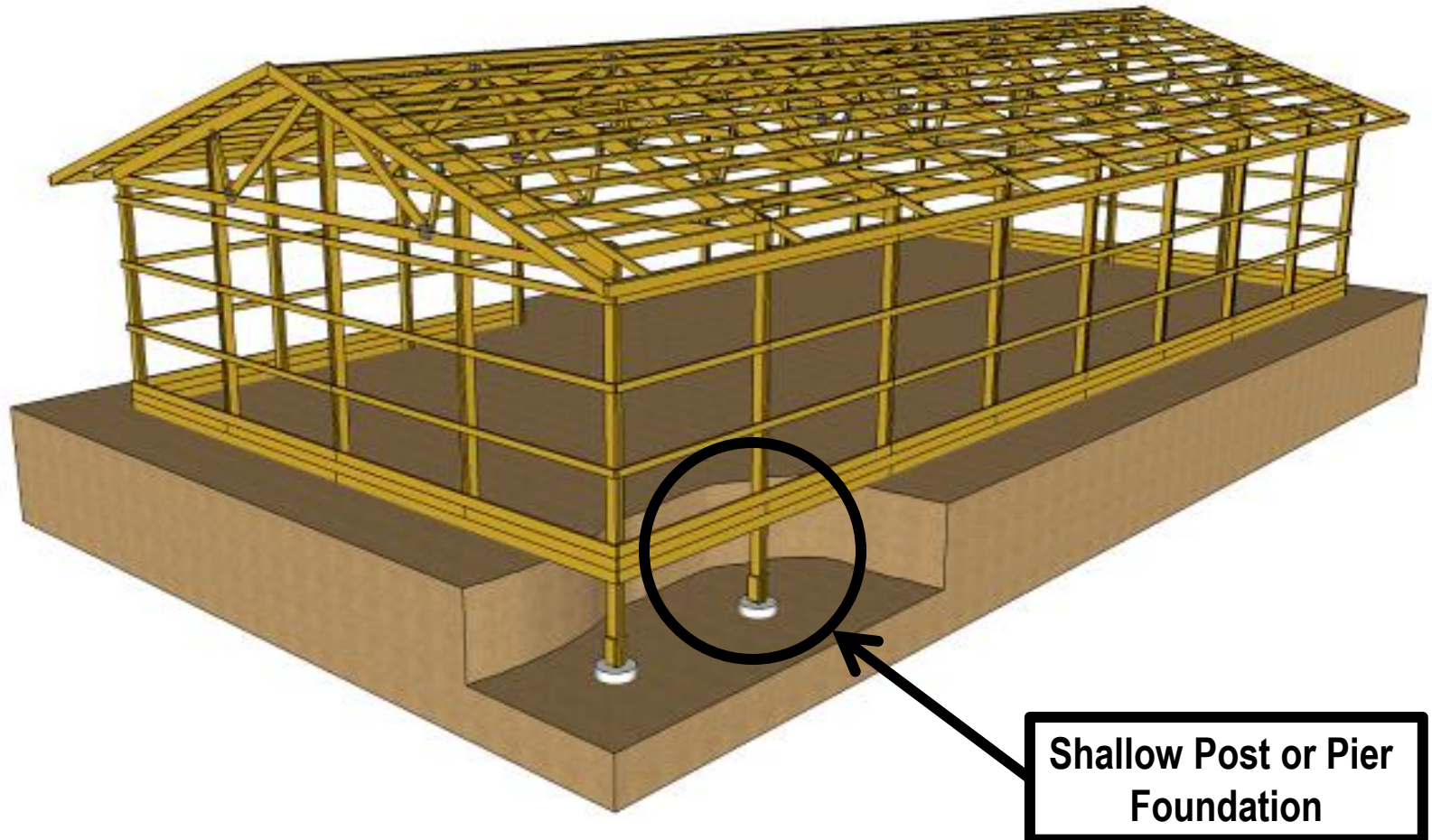


# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

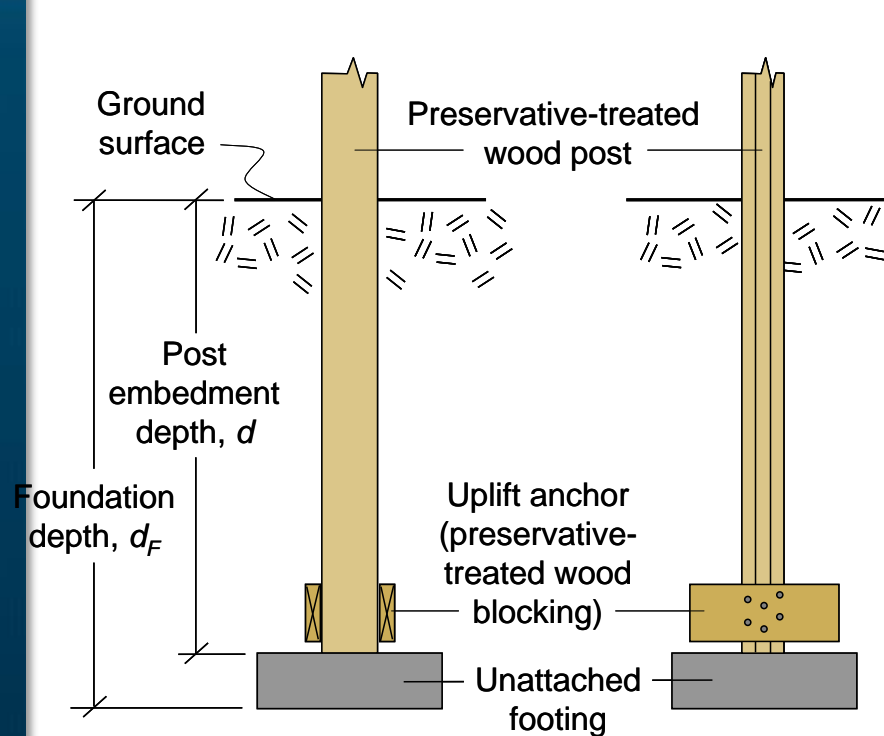
Participants will learn how to:

- Design shallow post/pier foundations to **resist bearing and uplift loads**
- Determine when the **Simplified** method may be used for shallow post/pier foundation design
- Determine **ground line shear and moment** in shallow post/pier foundation systems using the **simplified method**
- Determine design **embedment depths** for shallow post/pier foundation systems using the **simplified design method**

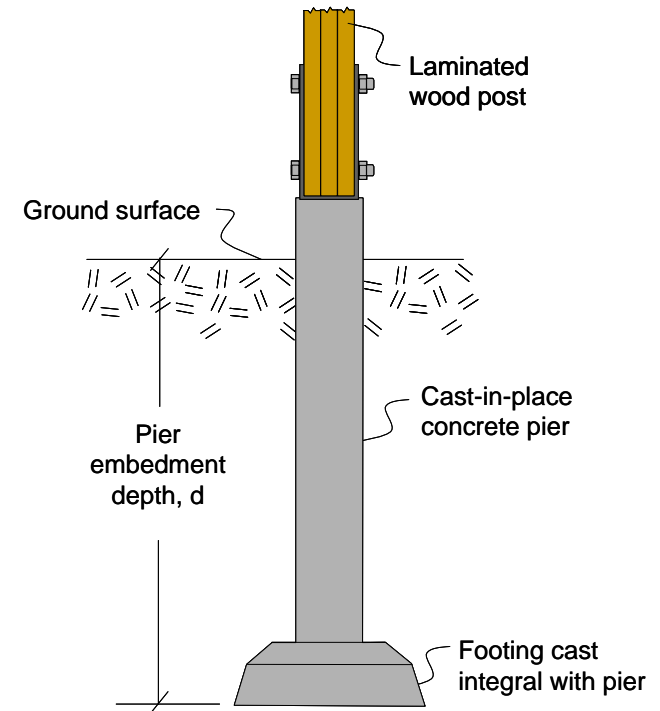
# POST-FRAME PICTORIAL



# TYPICAL POST AND PIER FOUNDATIONS

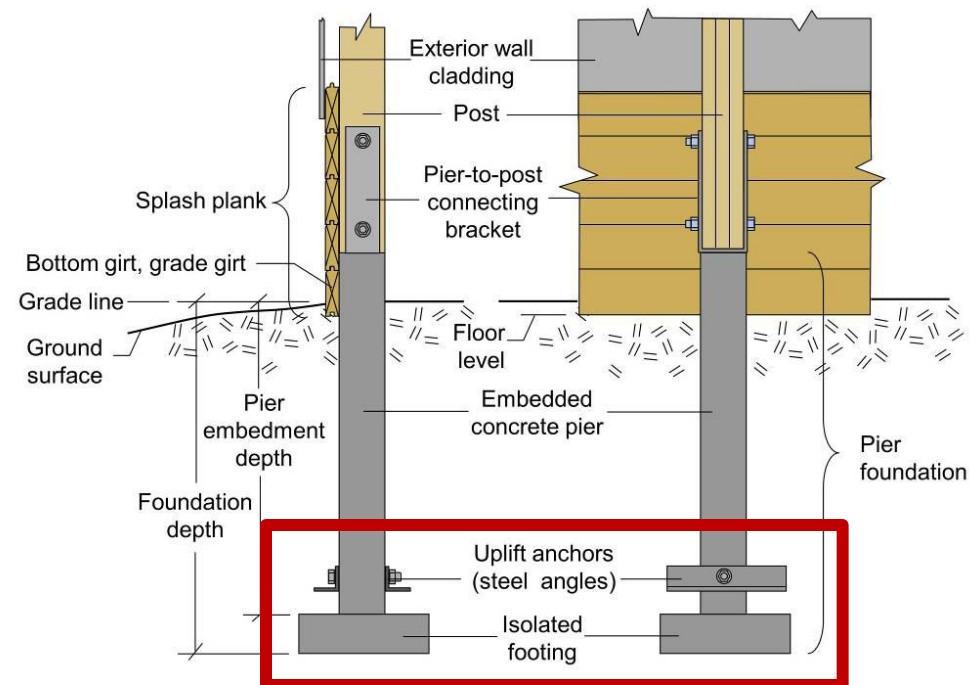
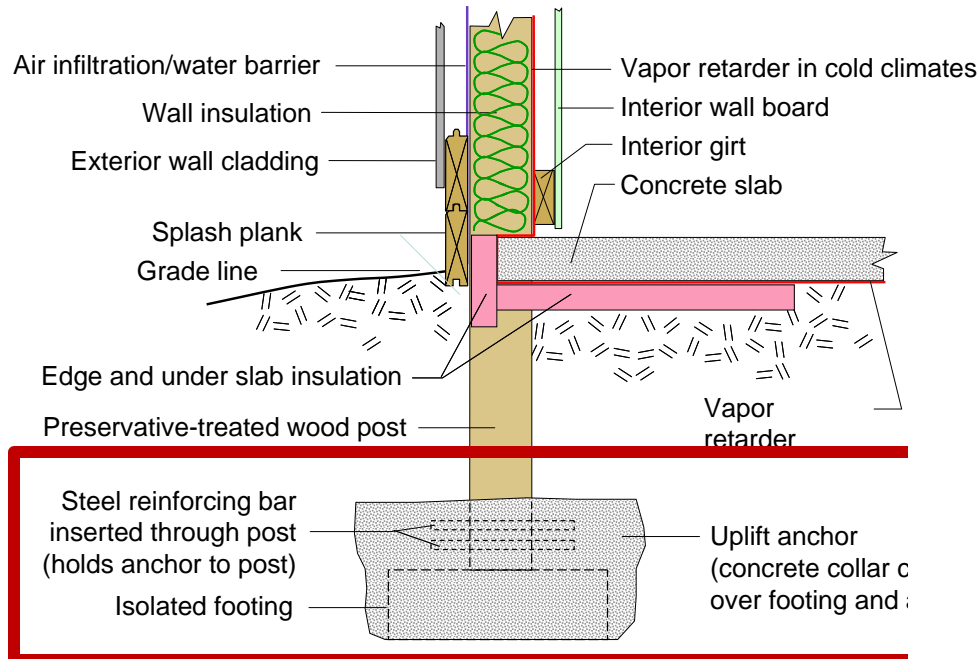


**Preservative-treated wood post foundation w/ preservative-treated uplift anchor**

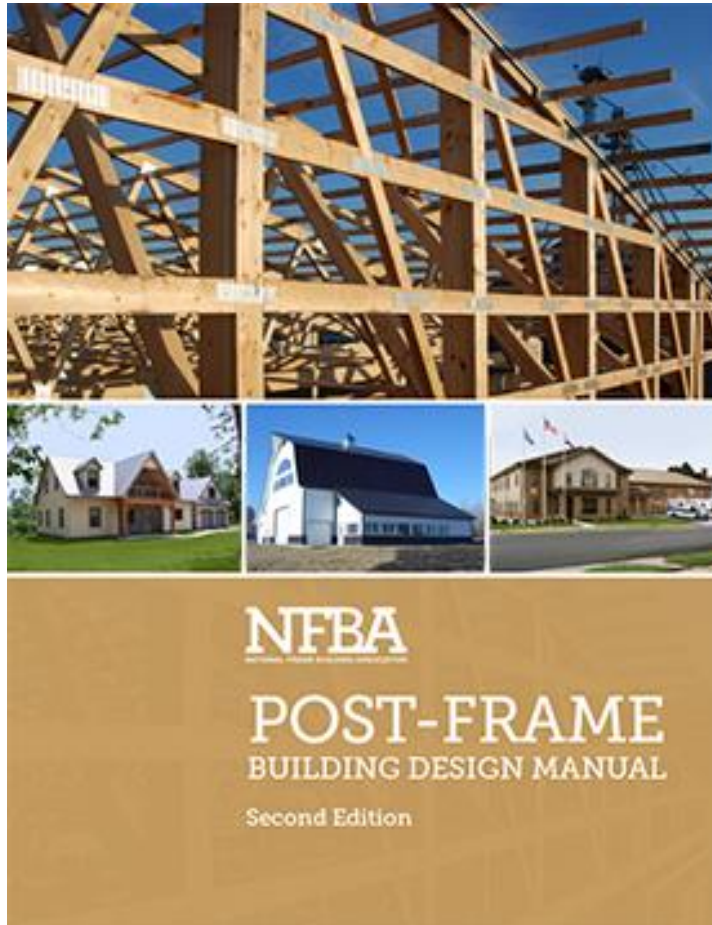


**Cast-in-place concrete pier foundation. Attached footing functions as uplift resisting system.**

# TYPICAL POST-FRAME FOUNDATION DETAILS



# POST-FRAME BUILDING DESIGN MANUAL (PFBDM-2015)



- Design Procedures & data, commentary & design examples for post-frame systems
- Chapter 5: Post & Pier Foundation Design



# POST-FRAME ENGINEERING PRACTICE

- ANSI/ASAE (ASABE)  
EP 486.3 Shallow post  
& pier foundation design

asabe.org



# **PFBDM SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN PROVISIONS**

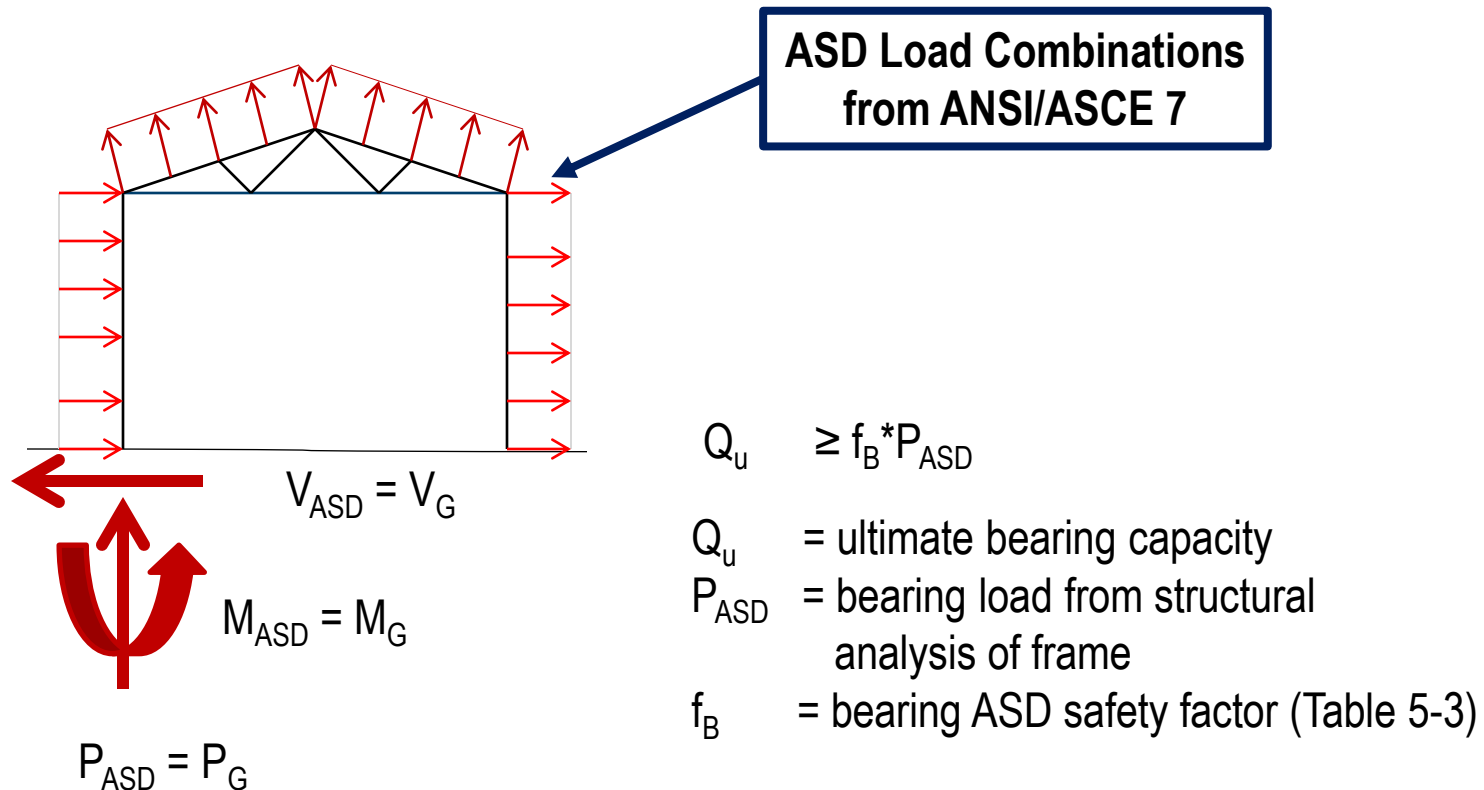
- **Structural Provisions in Chapter 5, PFBDM**
  - Bearing Resistance
  - Uplift Resistance
  - Lateral Resistance
- **ASD and LRFD Provisions Throughout**



# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION

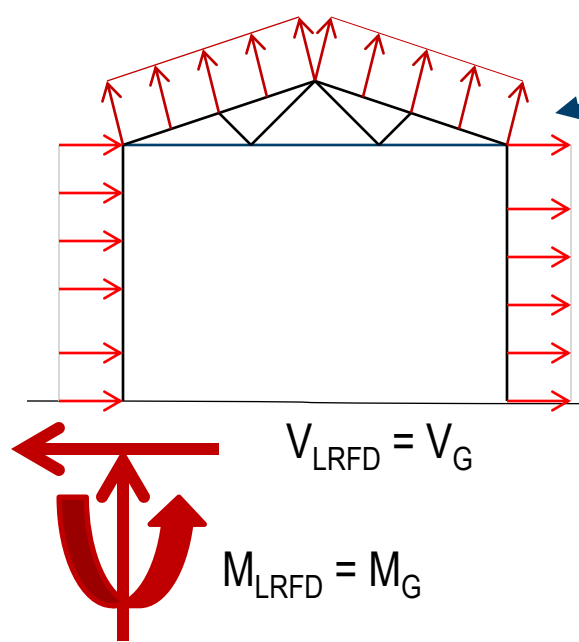
## ASD DESIGN FORMAT

### ASD Design Format (Bearing Resistance Example)



# SHALLOW POST & PIER LRFD FOUNDATION DESIGN FORMAT

## LRFD Design Format (Bearing Resistance Example)



LRFD Load Combinations  
from ANSI/ASCE 7

$$V_{LRFD} = V_G$$

$$M_{LRFD} = M_G$$

$$P_{LRFD} = P_G$$

$$Q_u * R_B \geq P_{LRFD}$$

$Q_u$  = ultimate bearing capacity

$P_{LRFD}$  = bearing load from structural  
analysis of frame with LRFD loads

$R_B$  = bearing load resistance factor (Table 5-3)

# SOIL PROPERTIES FOR SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN

- Engineering Properties of Soils (S. 5.4, PFBDM)
  - $E_s$  : Young's Modulus
  - $S_u$  : Undrained Shear Strength (cohesive soils)
  - $\phi$  : Soil Friction Angle (cohesionless soils)
  - $\gamma$  : Moist Unit Weight

# SOIL PROPERTIES FOR SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN

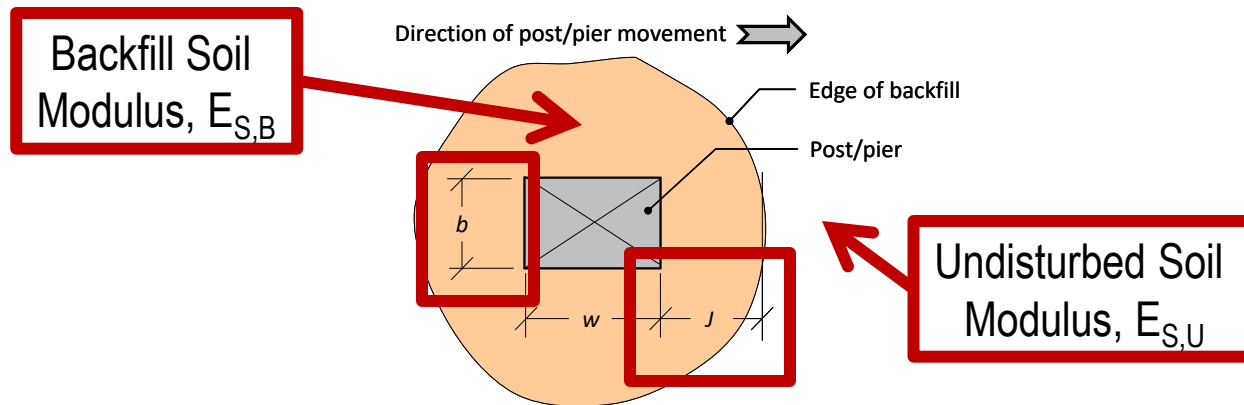
- Engineering Properties Based on either:
  - Presumptive Engineering Properties by Unified Soil Class (T5.1 & 5.2, PFBDM)
  - Lab Testing
  - In-Situ Testing, or (S. 5.4.3 – 7, PFBDM)
  - Combination of In-Situ & Lab Testing

# SAFETY ( $F_B$ ) AND LRFD LOAD RESISTANCE ( $R_B$ ) FACTORS

- $f_B$  and  $R_B$  Dependent Upon **Source of Soil Properties** (S. 5.7.2, Tables 5.3 to 5.6, PFBDM)
  - Presumptive Tabulated Values **[MOST CONSERVATIVE]**
  - Presumptive Values with Soil Type Verified On-Site
  - Field Testing On-Site
  - Direct Lab Testing **[LEAST CONSERVATIVE]**

# EFFECTIVE YOUNG'S MODULUS FOR SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN

Effective Young's Modulus of Soil,  $E_{SE}$   
(S. 5.6.2, PFBDM)



$$E_{SE} = \frac{1}{I_s / E_{S,B} + (1 - I_s) / E_{S,U}} \quad \text{for } 0 < J < 3b \quad (5-2a)$$

$$E_{SE} = E_{S,U} \quad \text{for } J = 0 \quad (5-2c)$$

$$E_{SE} = E_{S,B} \quad \text{for } J \geq 3b \quad (5-2b)$$

$$I_s = \text{strain influence factor,} \\ = [\ln(1 + J/b)] / 1.386 \quad \text{for } 0 < J < 3b \quad (5-3)$$

# **SOIL CLASSIFICATIONS FOR SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN**

Unified Soil Classification System  
(S. 5.3.9, PFBDM)

Cohesive vs. Cohesionless (non-cohesive) soils  
(S. 5.3.5, PFBDM)



# UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (USCS) FROM ASTM 2487

Table 5.1, PFBDM

Criteria for Assigning Group Symbols and Names Using Laboratory Tests (Based on material passing the 3-inch (75 mm) sieve)				Group Symbol	Typical Names
Course-Grained Soils More than 50% retained on the No. 200 sieve	Gravels 50% or more of course fraction retained on the No. 4 sieve	Clean Gravels (Less than 5% fines <sup>A</sup> )	$C_U \geq 4$ and $1 \leq C_C \leq 3$ <sub>B</sub>	GW	Well-graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
			$C_U < 4$ and/or $1 > C_C > 3$ <sub>B</sub>	GP	Poorly graded gravels and gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
		Gravels with Fines (more than 12% fines <sup>A</sup> )	Fines classify as ML or MH	GM <sup>D</sup>	Silty gravels, gravel-sand-silt mixtures
			Fines classify as CL or CH	GC <sup>D</sup>	Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures
	Sands 50% or more of course fraction passes the No. 4 sieve	Clean Sands (Less than 5% fines <sup>C</sup> )	$C_U \geq 6$ and $1 \leq C_C \leq 3$ <sub>B</sub>	SW	Well-graded sands, little or no fines
			$C_U < 6$ and/or $1 > C_C > 3$ <sub>B</sub>	SP	Poorly graded sands, little or no fines
		Sands with Fines (More than 12% fines <sup>C</sup> )	Fines classify as ML or MH	SM <sup>D</sup>	Silty sands, sand-silt mixtures
			Fines classify as CL or CH	SC <sup>D</sup>	Clayey sands, sand-clay mixtures
Fine-Grained Soils 50% or more passing the No. 200 sieve	Silts and Clays Liquid Limit less than 50%	Inorganic	PI > 7 and plots on or above "A" line	ML	Inorganic silts, very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands
			PI < 4 or plots below "A" line	CL	Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity, gravelly/silty
		Organic	Oven dried liquid limit divided by regular liquid limit is less than 0.75	OL	Organic silts and clays of low plasticity
			PI plots on or above "U" line	UH	Inorganic clays of high plasticity

Cohesionless Soils

Cohesive Soils

# PRESUMPTIVE SOIL PROPERTIES FOR SHALLOW POST/PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN

Table 5-2, (PFBDM)

Table 5-2. Presumptive Soil Properties for Post and Pier Foundation Design from ANSI/ASAE EP486.2

Soil Type	Unified Soil Classification	Consistency	Moist unit weight, $\gamma$	Drained soil friction angle <sup>(a)</sup> , $\phi'$	Undrained soil shear strength <sup>(b)</sup> , $S_U$	Young's modulus for soil <sup>(c)(d)</sup> , $E_s$	Increase in Young's modulus per unit depth below grade <sup>(c)(d)(e)</sup> , $A_F$		Poisson's ratio <sup>(f)</sup> , $\nu$
			lb/ft <sup>3</sup>	deg	lb/in <sup>2</sup>	lb/in <sup>2</sup>	lb/in <sup>2</sup> -ft	lb/in <sup>3</sup>	
Homogeneous inorganic clay, sandy or silty clay	CL	Soft	125	NA	3.5	3920	-	-	0.5
		Medium to Stiff	130		7	6160	-	-	
		Very Stiff to Hard	135		14	8400	-	-	
Homogeneous inorganic clay of high plasticity	CH	Soft	110	NA	3.5	1680	-	-	0.5
		Medium to stiff	115		7	2800	-	-	
		Very Stiff to Hard	120		14	4480	-	-	
Inorganic silt, sandy or clayey silt, varved silt-clay-fine sand of low plasticity	ML	Soft	120	NA	3.5	3920	-	-	0.5
		Medium to stiff			7	6160	-	-	
		Very Stiff to Hard			14	8400	-	-	
Inorganic silt, sandy or clayey silt, varved silt-clay-fine sand of high plasticity	MH	Soft	105	NA	3.5	1680	-	-	0.5
		Medium to stiff			7	2800	-	-	
		Very Stiff to Hard			14	4480	-	-	
Silty or clayey fine to coarse sand	SM, SC, SP-SM, SP-SC, SW-SM SW-SC	Loose	105	30	NA	-	440	37	0.3
		Medium to Dense	110	35		-	660	55	
		Very Dense	115	40		-	880	73	
Clean sand with little gravel	SW, SP	Loose	115	30	NA	-	880	73	0.3
		Medium to Dense	120	35		-	1320	110	
		Very Dense	125	40		-	1760	147	
Gravel, gravel-sand mixture, boulder-gravel mixtures	GW, GP	Loose	135	35	NA	-	2640	220	0.3
		Medium to Dense		40		-	3520	293	
		Very Dense		45		-	4400	367	
Well-graded mixture of fine- and coarse-grained soil: glacial till, hardpan, boulder clay	GW-GC GC-SC	Loose	120	35	NA	-	1320	110	0.3
		Medium to Dense	125	40		-	1760	147	

**Cohesive Soils**

**Cohesionless Soils**

# BEARING DESIGN FOR SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATIONS

- **General Governing Bearing Design Equations for ASD or LRFD (S. 5.8, PFBDM)**

$$Q_u = (q_B - \gamma d_f)A \geq f_B * P_{ASD}$$

$$Q_u * R_B = (q_B - \gamma d_f)A * R_B \geq P_{LRFD}$$

\*  $Q_u$  = foundation ultimate bearing load

\*  $d_f$  = foundation depth

\*  $A$  = foundation bearing area

\*  $\gamma$  = unit weight of soil

\*  $q_B$  = ultimate soil bearing capacity

# BEARING DESIGN: ULTIMATE SOIL BEARING CAPACITY (SECTION 5.8, PFBDM)

$q_B$  from one of the following:

- General Bearing Capacity Eqn (Section 5.8.3 & Table 5-7, PFBDM) – **Presumptive Value**
- Standard Penetration Test Results (SPT)-  
(Section 5.8.4, PFBDM)
- Cone Penetration Test Results (CPT)-  
(Section 5.8.5, PFBDM)
- Pressuremeter Test Results (PMT)-  
(Section 5.8.6, PFBDM)

# POST FOUNDATION DESIGN: BEARING AREA - ASD

Design Criterion for **Cohesionless Soil & ASD** (S. 5.8.1, PFBDM)

$$Q_u = (q_B - \gamma d_F)/f_B \geq P_{ASD}/A$$

- $q_B$  - Ultimate soil bearing capacity
- $\gamma$  - soil density
- $d_F$  - foundation depth
- $f_B$  - bearing ASD factor of safety (EP486, T.2)
- $P_{ASD}$  - ASD design bearing load
- $A$  - footing bearing area

$$A = P_{ASD} f_B / (q_B - \gamma d_F)$$

# POST FOUNDATION DESIGN: BEARING RESISTANCE

Assuming water table much deeper than footing depth and footing diameter,  $B$ , and using the **general bearing capacity equation** ( $C_{w1}$  and  $C_{w2} = 1.0$ )

$$q_B = \gamma(0.5BN_\gamma s_\gamma + d_F N_q d_q s_q) \quad (\text{S. 5.8.3, PFBDM})$$

Term-values in  $q_B$  equation tabulated in Section 5.8.3 and Table 5.7, PFBDM for a range of soil properties

$\phi$ (T. 5-2)	$\gamma$ (T. 5-2)
$s_\gamma$ (S. 5.8.3)	
$N_q$ (T. 5.7)	$N_\gamma$ (T. 5.7)
$d_q$ (T. 5.7)	$s_q$ (T. 5.7)

Using presumptive soil properties from Table 5.7, PFBDM

$$f_B = 1.4/(0.77 - 0.01\phi) \quad (\text{Table 5.3, PFBDM})$$

# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN: LATERAL RESISTANCE

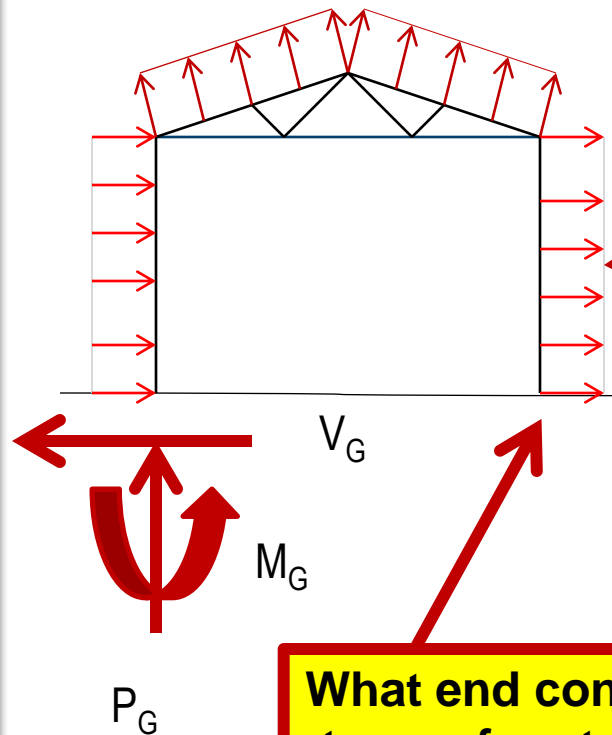
## Two Issues

- Structural Analogs for Determining Post-Frame Groundline Shear & Moment ( $V_G$  &  $M_G$ )
- Methods for Determining Post/Pier **ULTIMATE** Lateral Load Capacity ( $V_u$  &  $M_u$ ) & Embedment Depth



# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN: LATERAL RESISTANCE

Design Ground-line Shear ( $V_G$ )  
and Moment, ( $M_G$ )



ASD or LRFD Load  
Combinations per  
ASCE/SEI 7

$$V_G = V_{ASD} \text{ or } V_{LRFD}$$

$$M_G = M_{ASD} \text{ or } M_{LRFD}$$

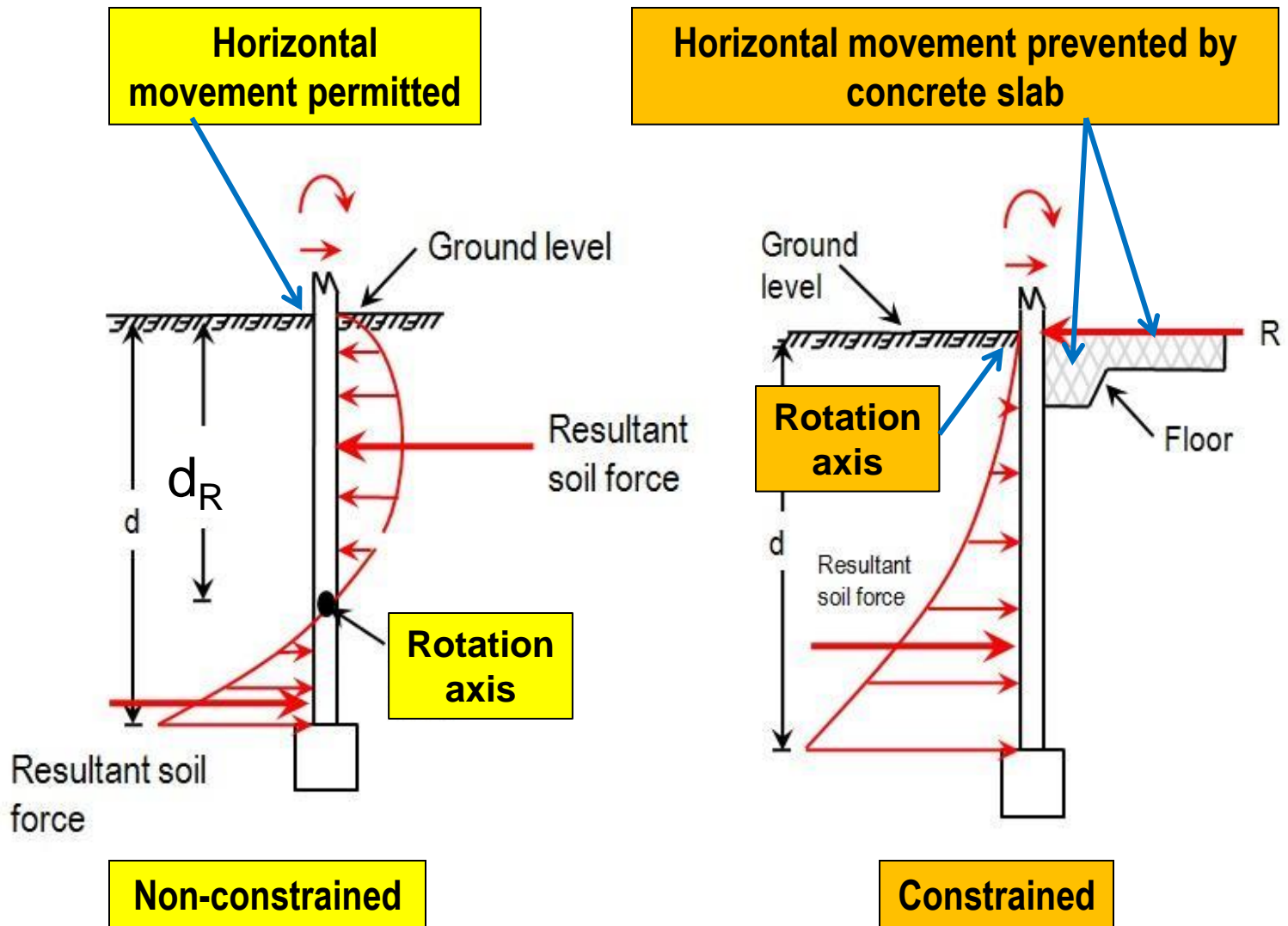
**What end conditions  
to use for structural  
analysis of PF???**

# **SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN: POST-SOIL FIXITY MODELS**

- Two post-soil fixity models for embedded post or pier foundations:
  - Constrained post or pier
  - Non-constrained post or pier

# CONSTRAINED VS. NON-CONSTRAINED POSTS & PIERS

S. 5.2.4, PFBDM



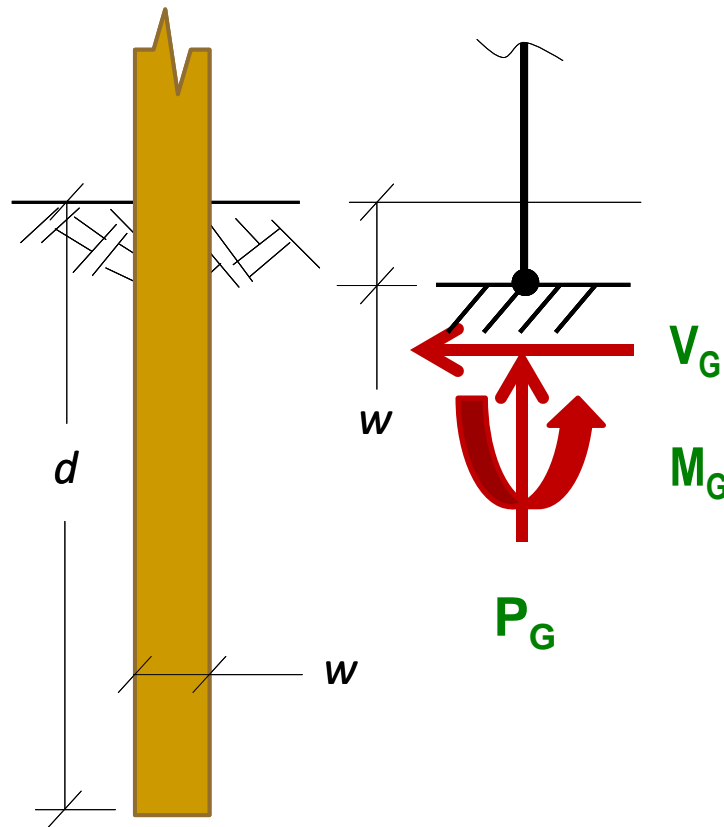
# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATIONS: GROUNDLINE POST-SOIL INTERACTION

## Structural Analogs for Groundline Post-Soil Interaction – Two Approaches

- **Simplified Method (S. 5.6 & 6.3.3.2, PFBDM)**
- Universal Method (S. 5.6, PFBDM)

# NON-CONSTRAINED POST & PIERS: $M_G$ & $V_G$ BY SIMPLIFIED METHOD

Simplified Method –  $V_G$  &  $M_G$

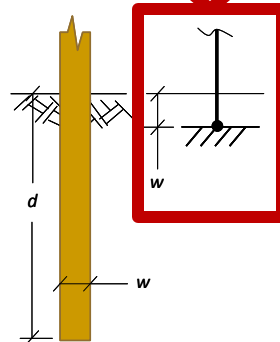
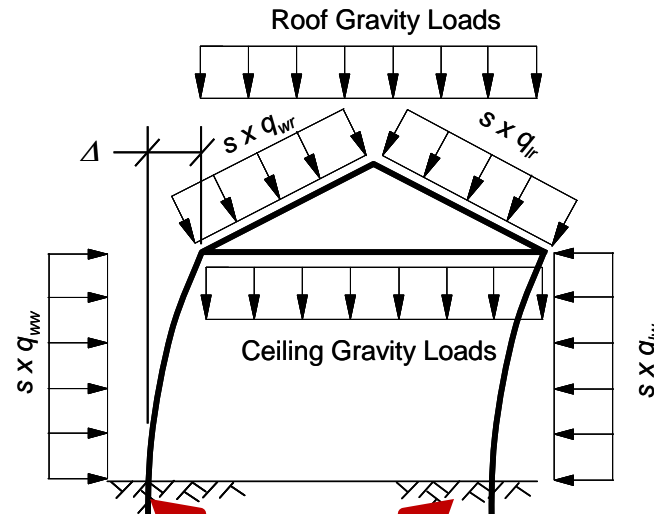


- Fixed end at depth  $w$  below grade
- $w$  = face width of post bearing against soil

Non-Constrained Post/Pier

# STRUCTURAL ANALOG FOR NON-CONSTRAINED PIER FOUNDATION

$V_G$  &  $M_G$

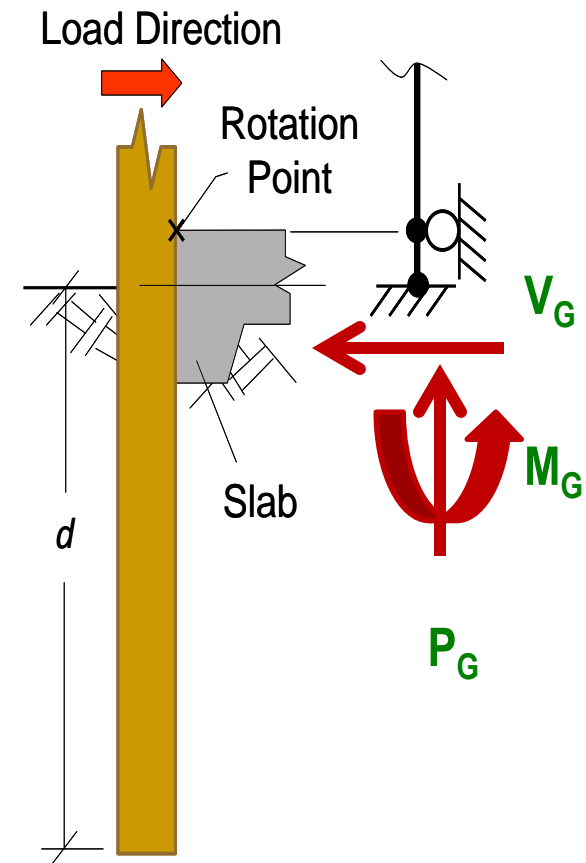


Non-constrained post/pier

# CONSTRAINED POST & PIERS: $M_G$ & $V_G$ BY SIMPLIFIED METHOD

## Simplified Model- $V_G$ & $M_G$

- Vertical roller at top edge of slab
- Fixed end at ground line

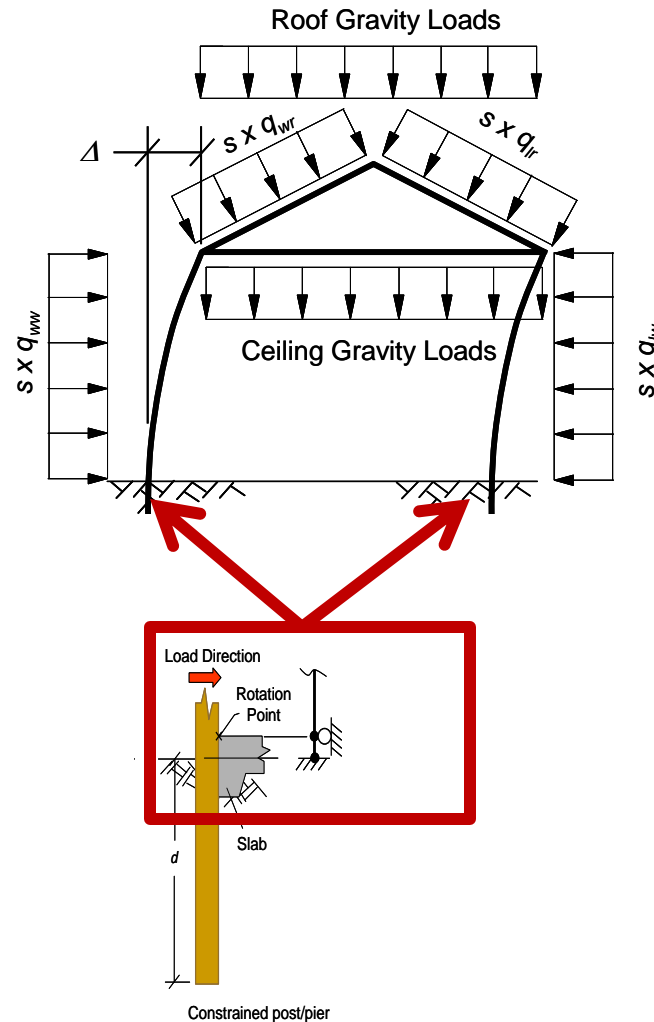


Constrained Post/Pier

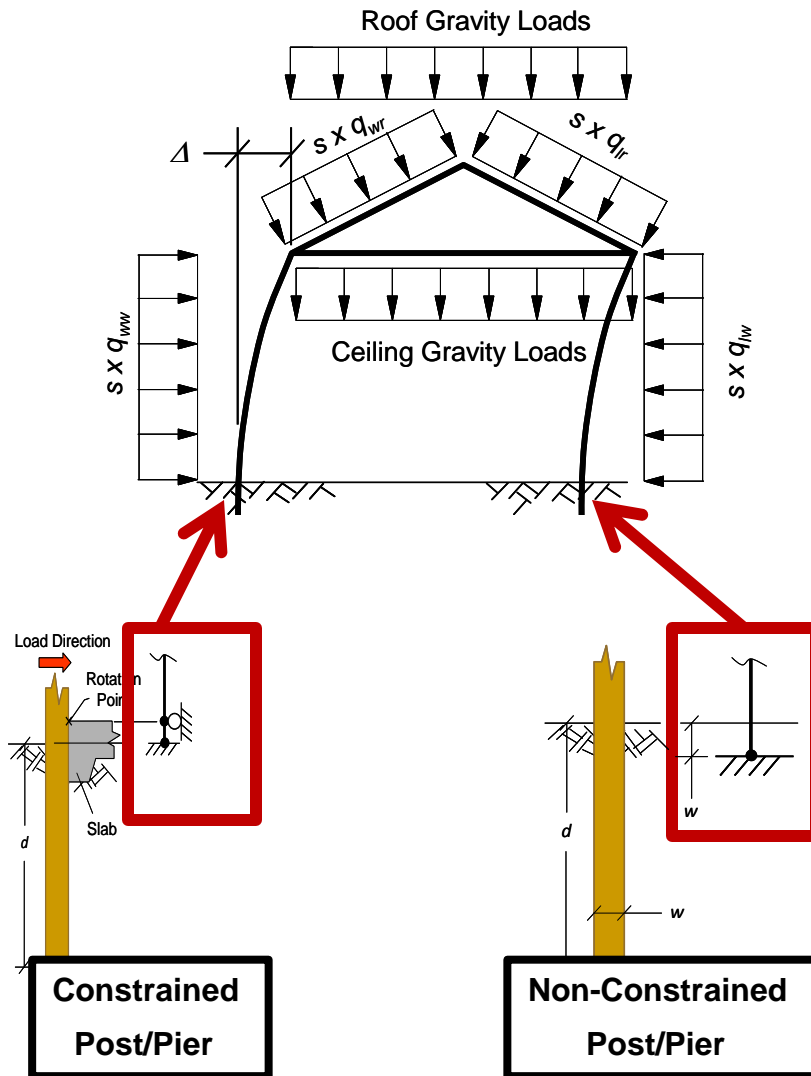


# STRUCTURAL ANALOG FOR CONSTRAINED PIER FOUNDATION

$V_G$  &  $M_G$



# STRUCTURAL ANALOGS FOR $V_G$ & $M_G$ CALCS: SIMPLIFIED METHOD



# REQUIRED CONDITIONS FOR USING SIMPLIFIED METHOD

## **Simplified Method Requirements for $V_G$ & $M_G$ Calcs (S. 5.6.6, PFBDM)**

- Homogeneous soil throughout the entire embedment depth
- Constant or linearly increasing soil stiffness for all depths below grade
- Width of the below-grade portion of the foundation is constant
- Below grade portion of the foundation approximates infinite flexural rigidity ( $EI$ )

# INFINITE STIFFNESS CRITERIA FOR SIMPLIFIED METHOD

(S. 5.6.6, PFBDM)

- $d \leq 2\{EI/(2A_E)\}^{0.20}$  (cohesionless soils)
- $d \leq 2\{EI/(2E_S)\}^{0.25}$  (cohesive soils)

where

- \*  $d$  is depth of embedment;
- \*  $EI$  is flexural rigidity of the post/pier
- \*  $E_S$  is Young's modulus of the soil
- \*  $A_E$  is the linear increase in Young's modulus of soil with depth below grade

# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE ( $V_U$ & $M_U$ ) AND EMBEDMENT DEPTH CALCS

Two Design Approaches

- **Simplified Method**
- Universal Method

# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN

## Simplified Method Requirements for $V_u$ & $M_u$ Calcs S. 5.9.3

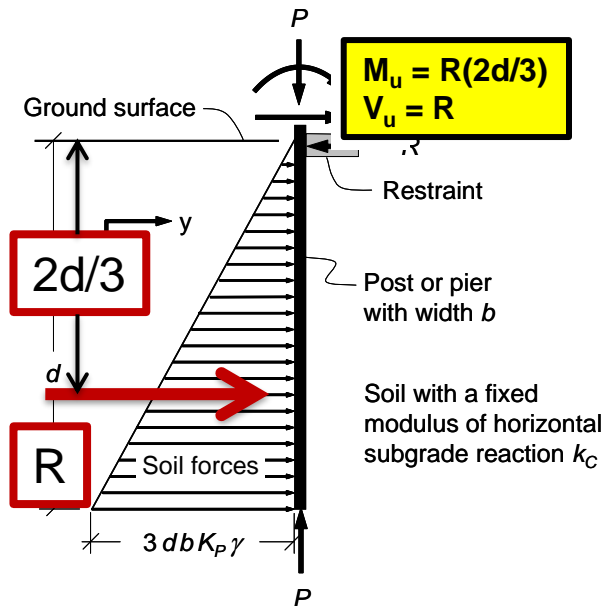
- Homogeneous soil throughout the entire embedment depth
- Constant or linearly increasing soil stiffness for all depths below grade
- Width of the below-grade portion of the foundation is constant

**NOTE: Infinite rigidity of post/pier foundation not required for simplified method  $V_u$  &  $M_u$  calcs**

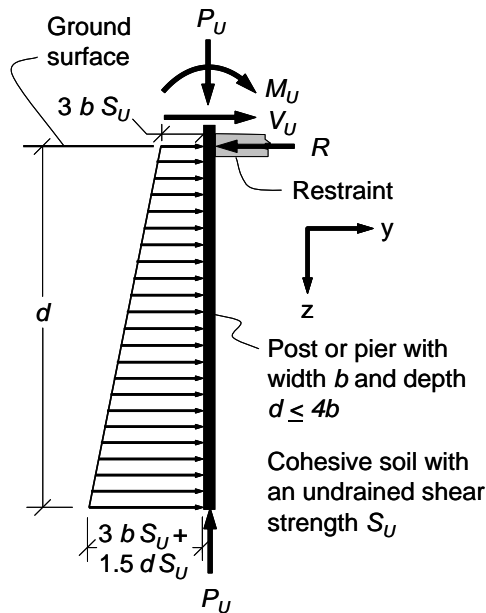
# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE & EMBEDMENT DEPTH

(S. 5.9.3.4-5, PFBDM)

## Simplified Method: **Constrained** at Ground Surface

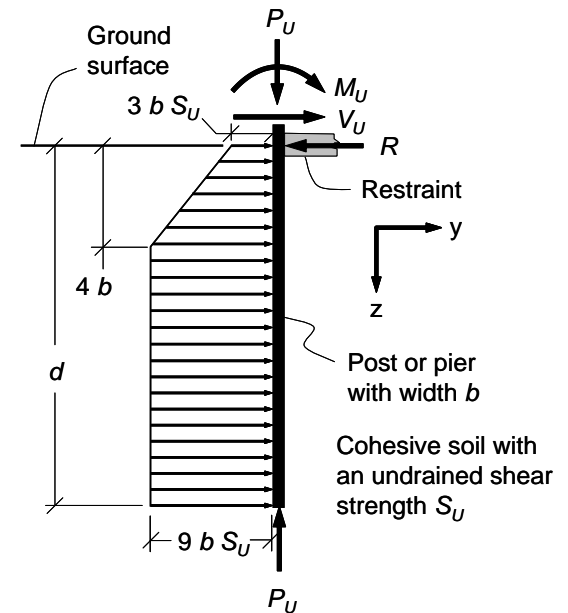


**Case 1**  
**Cohesionless Soil**



**Case 2**  
**Cohesive Soil**

(a)  $d \leq 4b$



(b)  $d > 4b$



# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE & EMBEDMENT DEPTH

## Constrained at Ground Surface – Design Criteria

### CASE 1: (Cohesionless Soil)

$$M_u = R(2d/3) = d^3 b K_p \gamma \geq M_G (f_L \text{ or } 1/R_L)$$


ASD

LRFD

$M_u$  = ultimate groundline moment capacity

$d$  = embedment depth

$b$  = foundation width bearing against soil

$\gamma$  = soil density

$K_p$  = passive pressure coefficient  $(1 + \sin\phi)/(1 - \sin\phi)$

$M_G$  = groundline moment (from structural analysis)

$f_L$  = lateral resistance factor of safety (ASD)

$R_L$  = load resistance factor (LRFD)

# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE & EMBEDMENT DEPTH

## Constrained at Ground Surface – Design Equation

### CASE 2: (Cohesive Soil)

(a)  $d \leq 4b$

$$M_u = d^3 b S_u [3/2 + d/(2b)] \geq M_G(f_L \text{ or } 1/R_L)$$

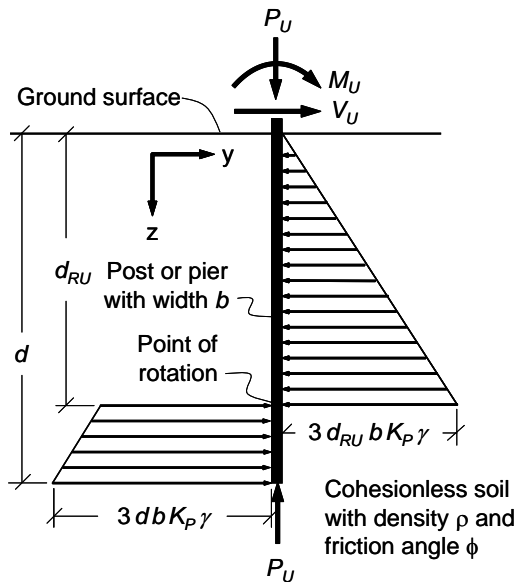
(b)  $d > 4b$

$$M_u = b S_u (4.5d^2 - 16b^2) \geq M_G(f_L \text{ or } 1/R_L)$$

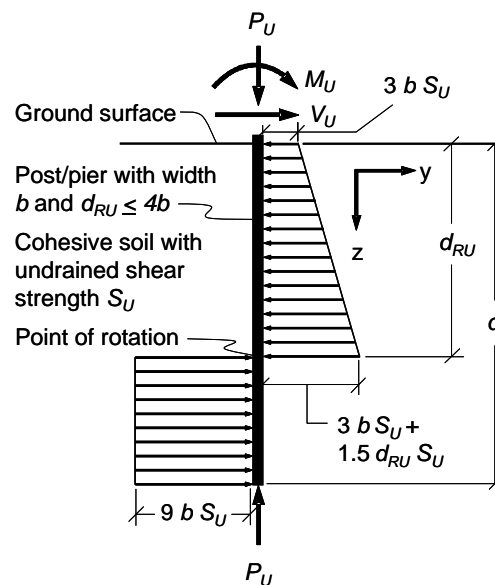
where  $S_u$  = Soil undrained shear strength (soil cohesion)

# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE & EMBEDMENT DEPTH

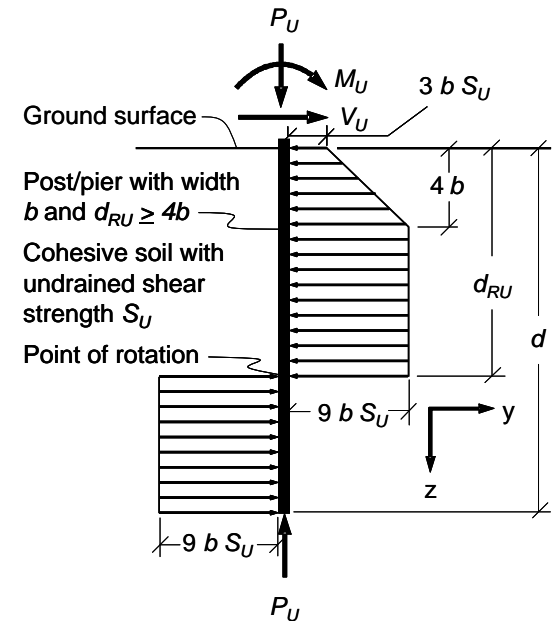
## Simplified Method: Non-Constrained at Ground Surface



**Case 1**  
**Cohesionless Soil**



**(a)  $d_{RU} \leq 4b$  and  $d > 4b$**

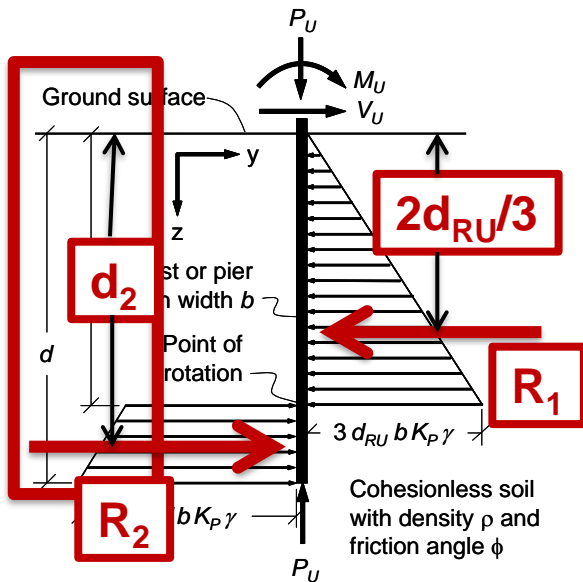


**Case 2**  
**Cohesive Soil**

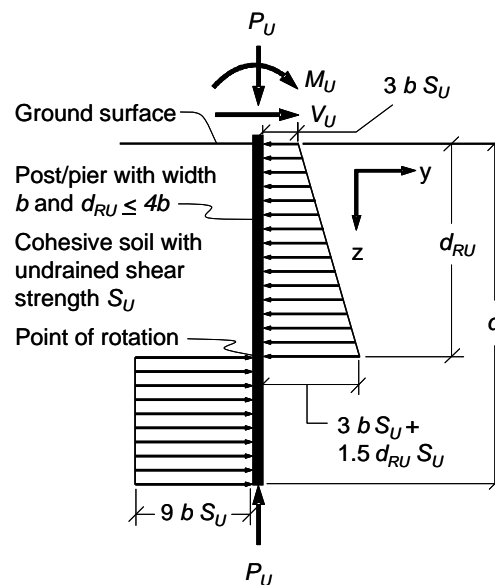
**(b)  $d_{RU} > 4b$  and  $d > 4b$**

# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE & EMBEDMENT DEPTH

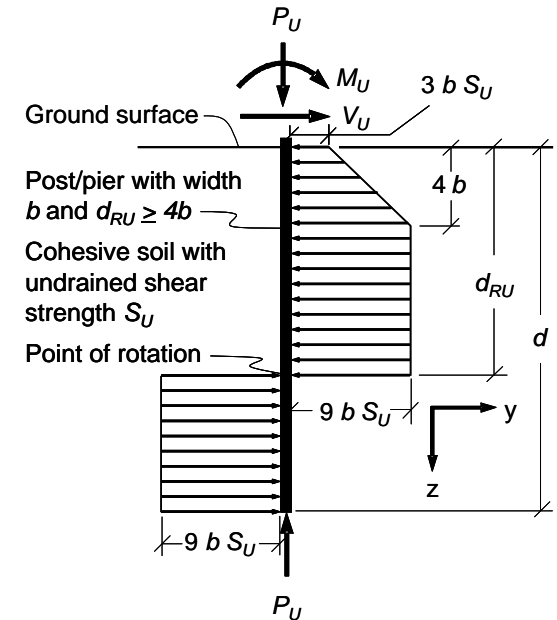
## Simplified Method: Non-Constrained at Ground Surface



**Case 1**  
**Cohesionless Soil**



**(a)  $d_{RU} \leq 4b$  and  $d > 4b$**



**Case 2**  
**Cohesive Soil**

**(b)  $d_{RU} > 4b$  and  $d > 4b$**

# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE & EMBEDMENT DEPTH: NON-CONSTRAINED

## Non-constrained at Ground Surface

Case 1: (Cohesionless Soil)

$$M_u = R_1(2d_{Ru}/3) + R_2(d_2) = S_{Lu}(d^3 - 2d_{Ru}^3)/3 \geq f_L M_G$$

$$S_{Lu} = 3bK_p\gamma \quad (\text{increase per unit depth in the ultimate lateral load applied to a foundation by a cohesionless soil})$$

$$d_{Ru} = (V_u/S_{Lu} + d^2/2)^{0.5} \geq 0$$

$$V_u = V_{LRFD}/R_L \text{ for LRFD}$$

$$V_u = V_{ASD}(f_L) \text{ for ASD}$$

# LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE & EMBEDMENT DEPTH: NON-CONSTRAINED

## Non-constrained at Ground Surface

Case 2: (Cohesive Soil)

(a)  $d_{Ru} < 4b$

$$M_u = bS_u[4.5 d^2 - 6d_{Ru}^2 - d_{Ru}^3/(2b)] \geq f_L M_G$$

where  $S_u$  = undrained shear strength (cohesive strength) of soil

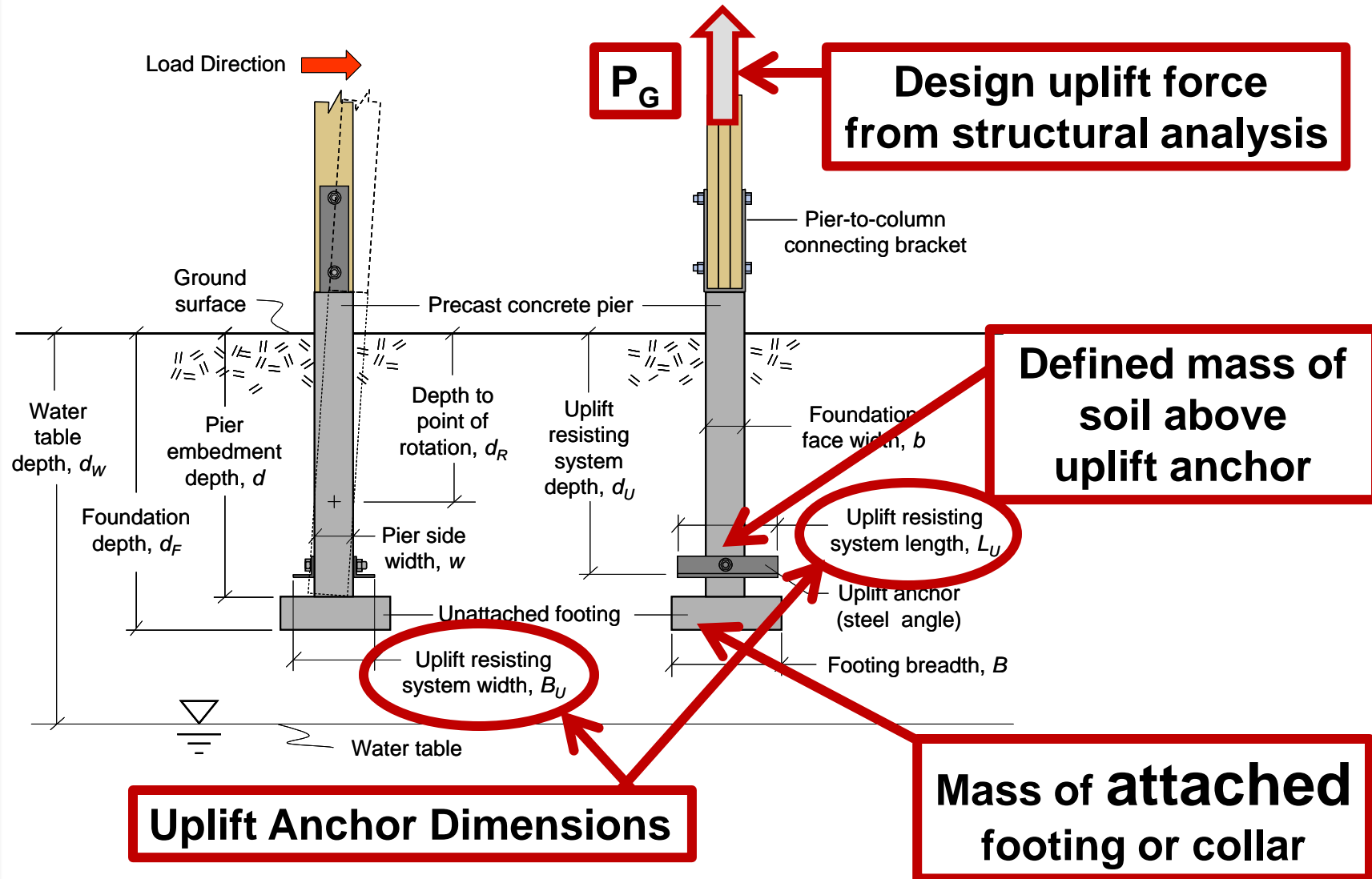
$$d_{Ru} = [64b^2 + 4V_u/(3S_u) + 12 bd]^{0.5} - 8b \leq d$$

(b)  $d_{Ru} \geq 4b$

$$M_u = 9bS_u(d^2/2 - d_{Ru}^2 + 16b^2/9) \geq f_L M_G$$

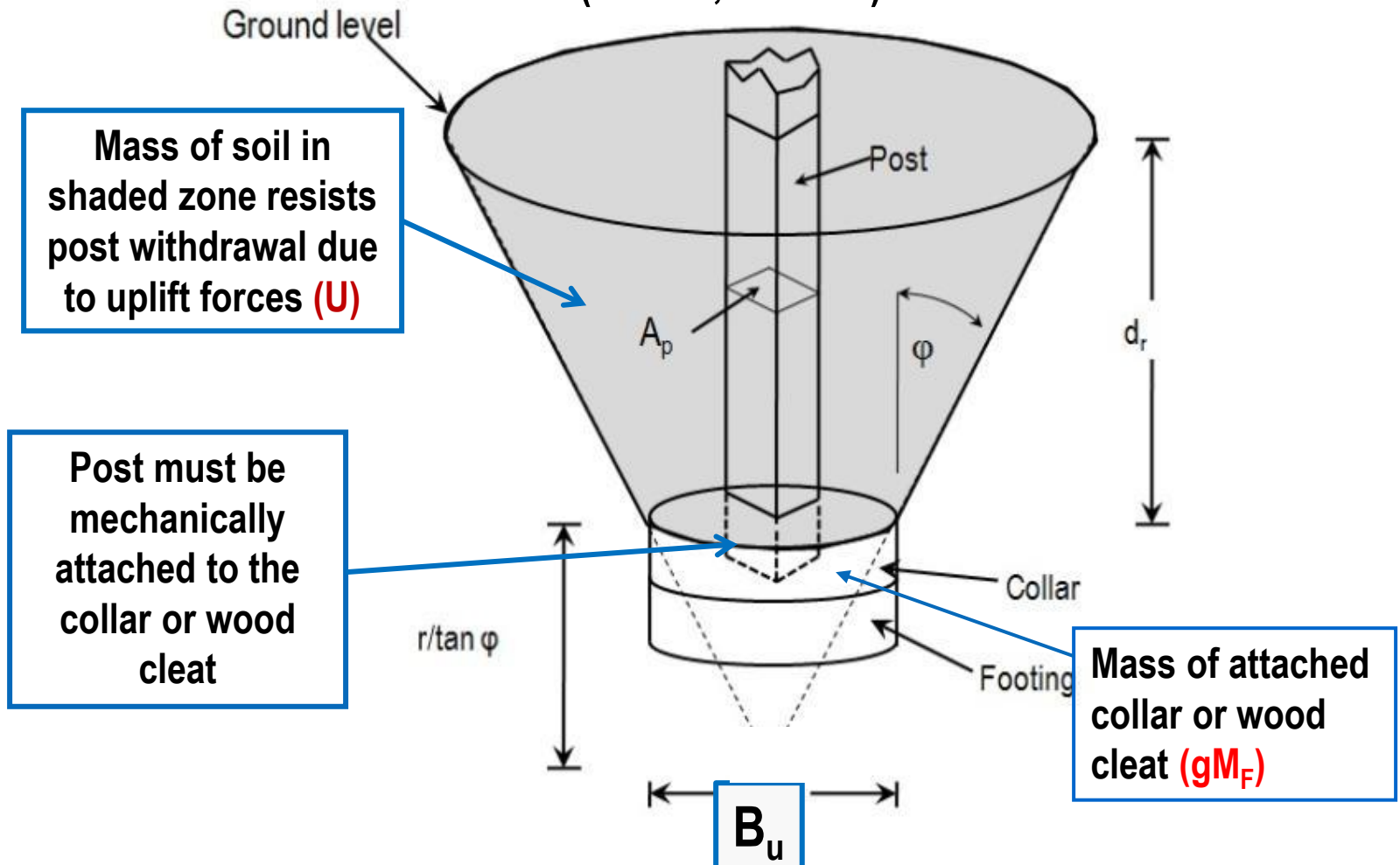
where  $d_{Ru} = V_u/(18bS_u) + d/2 + 2b/3 \leq d$

# POST/PIER FOUNDATION EMBEDMENT: UPLIFT RESISTANCE ELEMENTS



# SHALLOW POST & PIER EMBEDMENT DESIGN: UPLIFT RESISTANCE

(S. 5.10, PFBDM)





# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN – **UPLIFT DESIGN CRITERIA**

Governing Design Equations (S. 5.10.1, PFBDM)

$$U \geq f_U(P_{ASD} - gM_F) \text{ ----- ASD}$$

$$U * R_U \geq P_{LRFD} - gM_F \text{ ----- LRFD}$$

- $U$  = soil ultimate uplift resistance
- $P_{ASD}$  &  $P_{LRFD}$  = design uplift force
- $gM_F$  = weight of attached uplift anchors
- $f_U$  = uplift factor of safety
- $R_U$  = uplift load resistance factor

# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN – **UPLIFT RESISTANCE, U**

**U-value equations** provided in ASAE/ANSI EP 486.2 and PFBDM for several cases

- Cohesive soils – circular uplift anchors
- Cohesive soils – rectangular uplift anchors
- Cohesionless soils – circular uplift anchors  
(shallow and deep foundations)
- Cohesionless soils – rectangular uplift anchors  
(shallow and deep foundations)

# SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATION DESIGN – **UPLIFT RESISTANCE, U**

U-value equations provided in ASAE/ANSI EP 486.2 and PFBDM for several cases

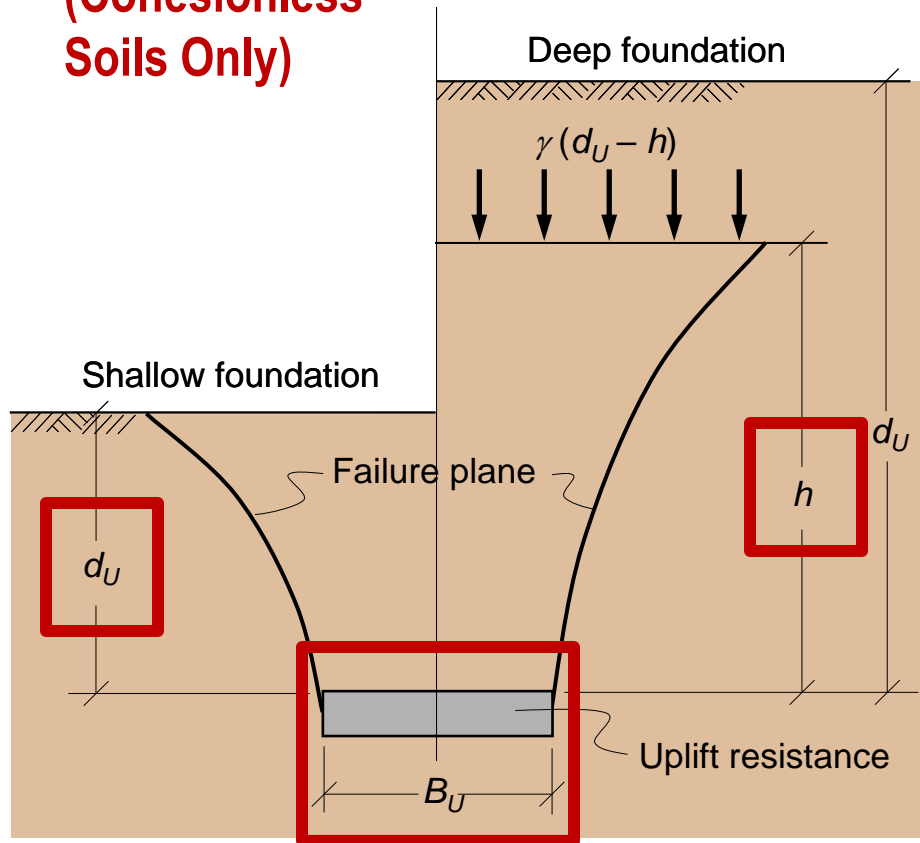
- Cohesive soils – circular uplift anchors
- Cohesive soils – rectangular uplift anchors
- Cohesionless soils – circular uplift anchors

- **See ANSI/ASAE EP486.3 or PFBDM-2015 (Chapter 5, Section 5.10.3) for U- Design Equations**  
(shallow and deep foundations)

# POST/PIER FOUNDATIONS: UPLIFT RESISTANCE, U

Shallow vs. Deep Foundations (S. 5.10.3, PFBDM)

(Cohesionless Soils Only)



Shallow:  $d_u \leq h$

Deep:  $d_u \geq h$

$h = 2.5B_u$  if  $\phi \leq 20$

$h = B_u(5.78 - 0.350 \phi + 0.00947 \phi^2)$  if  $\phi > 20$

$\phi$  = soil internal friction angle

# UPLIFT RESISTANCE, U, OF SOIL ABOVE CIRCULAR CYLINDRICAL ANCHOR SYSTEM

**Cohesive Soils (S. 5.10.4, PFBDM)**

$$U = \gamma d_u (B_u^2 \pi / 4 - A_p) + F_c S_u B_u^2 \pi / 4$$

$d_u$  = embedment depth to uplift anchor

$\gamma$  = soil density

$B_u$  = anchor diameter

$A_p$  = post cross sectional area

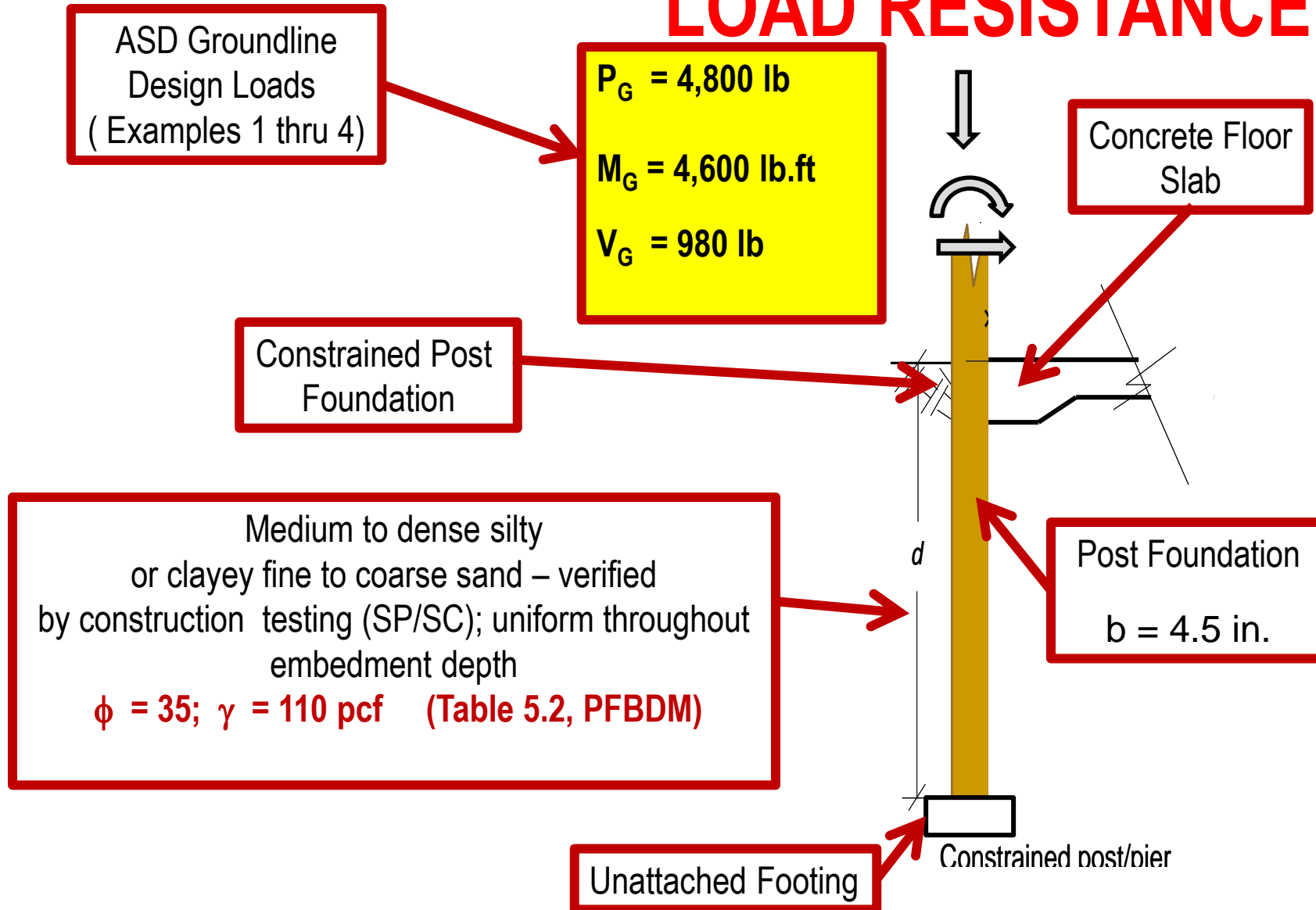
$F_c$  = breakout factor for soil uplift ( $1.2d_u/B_u$ )

$S_u$  = undrained soil shear strength

# DESIGN EXAMPLE 1: CONSTRAINED POST & COHESIONLESS SOIL

- Design **Constrained Post/Pier** Foundation in **Cohesionless Soil** for Gravity & Lateral Loads by Simplified Method – **Presumptive soil props w/ soil type verified by field testing (Uplift design covered in Example 5)**
  - Post foundation
  - **Medium to dense silty or clayey** fine to coarse sand– verified by construction testing **(SP/SC)**; uniform throughout embedment depth

# EXAMPLE 1: LATERAL & GRAVITY LOAD RESISTANCE



# EXAMPLE 1: POST FOUNDATION BEARING RESISTANCE DESIGN

Post-foundation footing design

Design Criterion for Cohesionless Soil

(Sect. 5.8.3, PFBDM)

$$(q_B - \gamma d_F)/f_B \geq P_{ASD}/A$$

$q_B$  - Ultimate soil bearing capacity

$\gamma$  - soil density **(110 pcf)**

$d_F$  - foundation depth **(Assume 4.5 ft)**

$f_B$  - bearing ASD factor of safety

$P_{ASD}$  - ASD design bearing load **(4,800 lb)**

$A$  - footing bearing area



# EXAMPLE 1: POST FOUNDATION BEARING RESISTANCE DESIGN

Assuming water table much deeper than footing depth and footing diameter,  $B$ , of 1.5 ft

$$q_B = \gamma(0.5BN_\gamma s_\gamma + d_F N_q d_q s_q) \quad (\text{Sect. 5.8.3, PFBDM})$$

From PFBDM, Section 5.8.3 and Tables 5.2 and 5.7

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &= 35^\circ \text{ \& } \gamma = 110 && (\text{Table 5.2}) \\ s_\gamma &= 0.60 && (\text{Section 5.8.3}) \\ s_q &= 1 + \tan\phi = 1.70 && (\text{Section 5.8.3}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} N_q &= 33.29 \text{ \& } N_\gamma = 48.02 && (\text{Table 5.7}) \\ d_q &= 1.32 \text{ for } d_F/B = 4.5/1.5 && (\text{Table 5.7}) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting,  $q_B = 39,355$  psf

# EXAMPLE 1: POST FOUNDATION BEARING RESISTANCE DESIGN

Rearranging the bearing area design criteria and using the bearing factor of safety

$$f_B = 1.4/(0.77 - 0.01\phi) = 3.33 \text{ (Table 5.3, PFBDM)}$$

$$A = P_{ASD} f_B / (q_B - \gamma d_F) = 3.33(4,800) / [39,355 - (110)(4.50)]$$
$$= 0.41 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$\text{Footing diameter} = \sqrt{4A/\pi} = \sqrt{4(0.38)/3.14}$$
$$= 0.72 \text{ ft (Recommend 16 to 18 in min)}$$

# EXAMPLE 1: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

Design Criteria (Section 5.9.3.4, PFBDM)

$$M_u = d^3 b K_p \gamma = \text{Ultimate Moment for } \textbf{Constrained} \\ \textbf{Post/Pier in Cohesionless Soil}$$

And  $M_G \leq M_u / f_L$

$d$  – embedment depth

$b$  – face width of embedded column (**0.38 ft**)

$K_p$  –  $(1 + \sin \phi) / (1 - \sin \phi)$

$\gamma$  – soil density (**110 pcf**)

$f_L$  – ASD factor of safety for lateral resistance

$M_G$  – ground surface moment (**4,600 lb-ft**)

# EXAMPLE 1: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

- Presumptive Soil Properties (Table 5.2, PFBDM)  
 $\phi = 35 \text{ deg.}$                        $\gamma = 110 \text{ pcf}$
- Lateral Foundation Design Factor of Safety (Table 5.5, PFBDM) (Soil Type verified at construction site)

$$f_L = 1.4 / (0.80 - 0.01\phi) = 3.11$$

- $K_p = (1 + \sin 35) / (1 - \sin 35) = 3.65$

# EXAMPLE 1: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

- Substituting  $z = d = 4.33$  ft. into the design criteria

$$M_u = [(4.33)^3](0.38)(3.65)(110) = 12,386 \text{ lb-ft}$$

$$M_u/f_L = 12,386/3.11 = 3,983 \text{ lb-ft} \leq M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

Thus, a deeper embedment depth required

- Substituting  $z = d = 4.5$  ft into the design criteria yields

$$M_u/f_L = 14,197/3.11 = 4,565 \text{ lb-ft} \approx M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

Thus depth of 4.5 ft is satisfactory

# EXAMPLE 1: CLOSURE

- Experience dictates that this embedment depth could be reduced by
  - Attaching a lateral force resisting collar near the post/pier bottom (Example No. 5)
  - Using less conservative method for determining soil properties to reduce factor of safety

# DESIGN EXAMPLE 2: PRESUMPTIVE SOIL PROPERTIES – LATERAL LOADS

- Design **Constrained** Post/Pier Foundation in **Cohesionless Soil** for Lateral Loads by Simplified Method – **Presumptive soil props from Table 5-2, PFBDM)**
  - All loads and foundation details same as in Example 1 except source of soil properties
  - Lateral resistance factor of safety,  $f_L$ , is the only design change

$$f_L = 1.4/[0.60 - 0.01\phi] = 1.4/[0.60 - 0.01(35)] = 5.60$$

(T. 5.5, PFBDM)

# EXAMPLE 2: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

$M_u = d^3 b K_p \gamma$  = Ultimate Moment for Constrained Post/Pier in  
Cohesionless Soil (Section 5.9.3.4, PFBDM)

- Substituting  **$z = d = 5.5$  ft.** into the design criteria

$$M_u = [(5.75)^3](0.38)(3.65)(110) = 25,383 \text{ lb-ft}$$

$$M_u/f_L = 25,383/5.60 = 4,532 \text{ lb-ft} \leq M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

- Substituting  **$z = d = 5.6$  ft** into the design criteria yields

$$M_u/f_L = 26,797/5.60 = 4,785 \text{ lb-ft} > M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

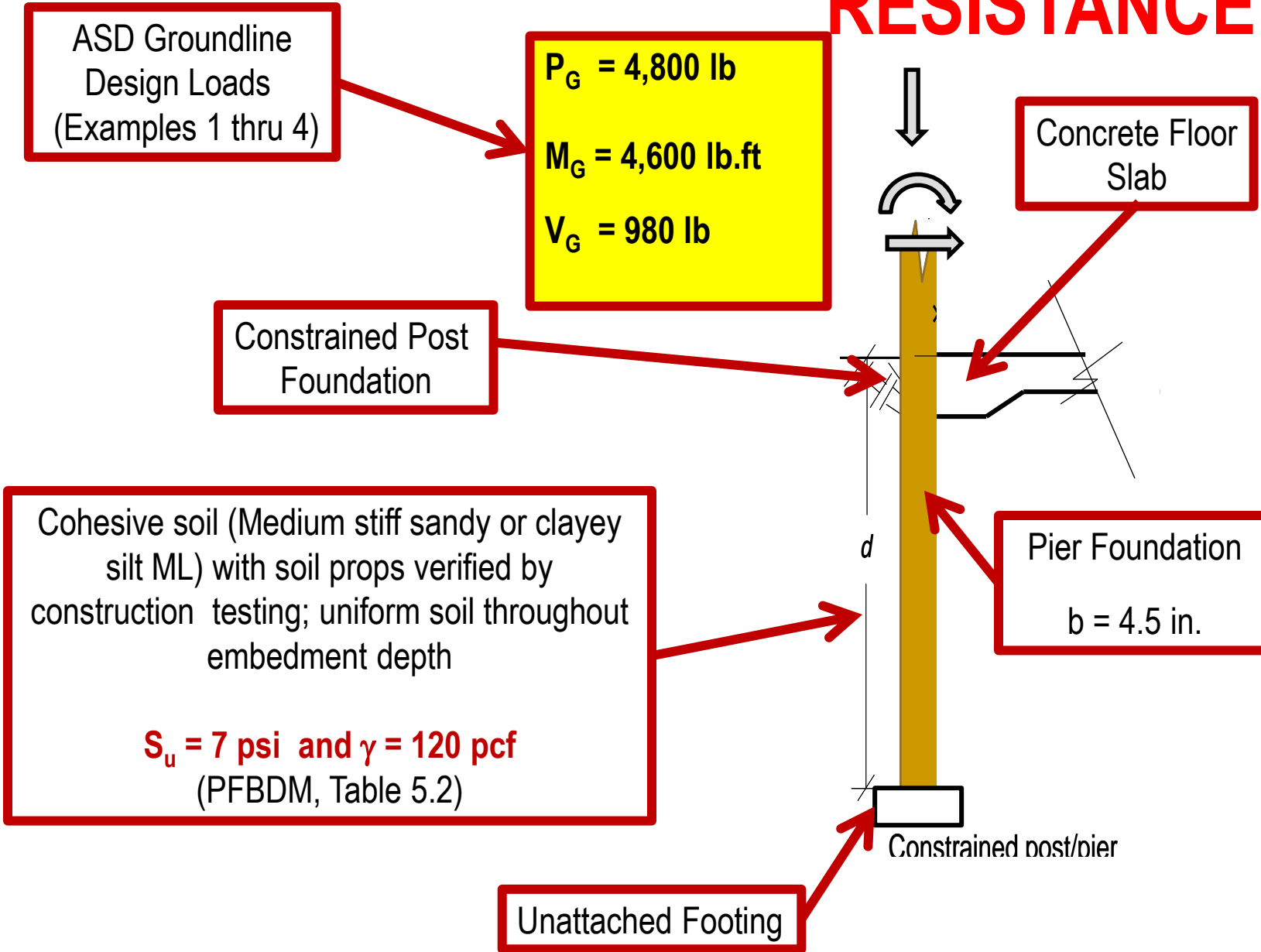
Thus depth of 5.6 ft required (compared to 4.6 ft in Example 1)



# DESIGN EXAMPLE 3: LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE -CONSTRAINED POST & COHESIVE SOIL

- Design **Constrained Post/Pier** Foundation in **Cohesive Soil** for Lateral Loads by Simplified Method – **Presumptive soil props from Table 5-2, PFBDM with soil type verified by field tests)**
- - All loads and foundation details same as in Example 1 except soil type to a cohesive soil (**Medium stiff sandy or clayey silt - ML**) with soil props verified by construction testing
- uniform soil throughout embedment depth

# RESISTANCE



# EXAMPLE 3: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN – COHESIVE SOIL

Design Criteria

(Section 5.9.3.2, PFBDM)

$$d > 4b$$

$$M_u = bS_u(4.5d^2 - 16b^2) \geq M_G(f_L)$$

$M_u$  - ultimate moment capacity

$M_G$  – ASD design moment (**4,600 lb.ft**)

$d$  – embedment depth

$b$  – face width of embedded column (**0.38 ft**)

$S_u$  - undrained soil shear strength (**7 psi**)

$f_L$  – ASD factor of safety for lateral resistance

# EXAMPLE 3: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN – COHESIVE SOIL

- Presumptive Soil Properties (PFBDM, Table 5.2)

$$S_u = 7 \text{ psi or } 1008 \text{ psf}$$

$$\gamma = 120 \text{ pcf}$$

- Lateral Foundation Design Factor of Safety –  
Soil Type verified at construction site (Table 5.5, PFBDM)

$$f_L = 2.2$$

# EXAMPLE 3: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN – COHESIVE SOIL

- Substituting  $z = d = 4.5$  ft. into the design criterion

$$M_u = bS_u(4.5d^2 - 16b^2) \geq M_G(f_L)$$

$$M_u = (0.38)(1008)[(4.5)(4.5)^2 - 16(0.38)^2] = 34,020 \text{ lb.ft}$$

$$M_u/f_L = 34,020/2.2 = 15,463 \text{ lb-ft} \gg M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

# EXAMPLE 3: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN – COHESIVE SOIL

- Substituting  $z = d = 3.5$  ft into the design criterion yields

$$M_u = 20,390 \text{ lb.ft}$$

$$\text{and } M_u/f_L = 20,390/2.2 = 9,268 \text{ lb.ft} \gg M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb.ft}$$

- Substituting  $z = d = 2.6$  ft into the design criterion yields

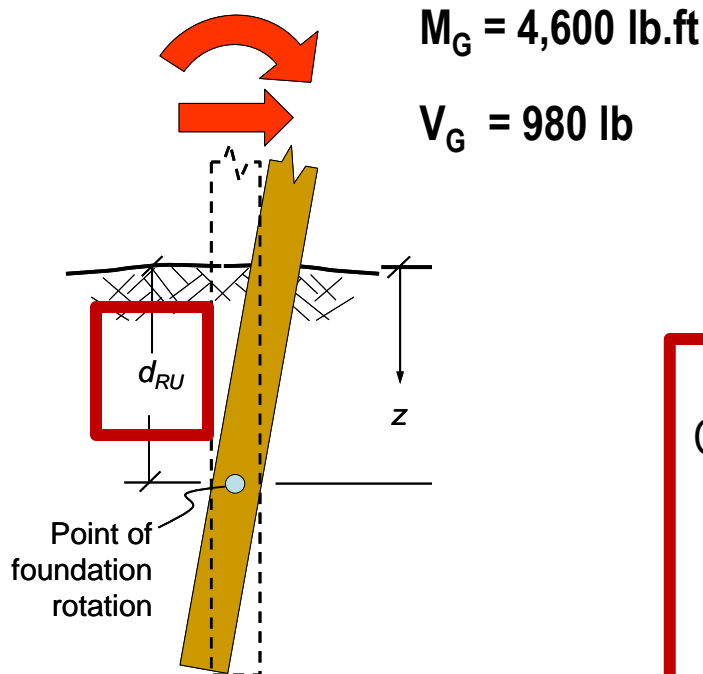
$$M_u = 10,853 \text{ lb.ft and } M_u/f_L = 4,933 \text{ lb.ft} \approx M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

Thus a 2.6 ft embedment depth ft is satisfactory (but don't recommend using less than 3.5 ft to accommodate minimum frost depth requirements, etc)

# DESIGN EXAMPLE 4: LATERAL LOAD RESISTANCE FOR NON-CONSTRAINED POST & COHESIVE SOIL

- Design **Non-Constrained** Post/Pier Foundation in **Cohesive** Soil for Lateral Loads by Simplified Method – **Presumptive soil props from Table 5-2, PFBDM with soil type verified by field tests)**
  - All loads and foundation details same as in Example 3 except ground restraint changed to non-constrained

# EXAMPLE 4: NON-CONSTRAINED POST



Non-Constrained Post  
Foundation

Cohesive soil (Medium Stiff Sandy or  
Clayey Silt (ML) – verified by construction  
testing; uniform soil throughout  
embedment depth

$S_u = 7 \text{ psi}$  and  $\gamma = 120 \text{ pcf}$   
(PFBDM, Table 5.2)



# EXAMPLE 4: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

Design Criteria

(Section 5.9.3.2, PFBDM)

$$d_{Ru} \geq 4b$$

- $M_u = 9bS_u(d^2/2 - d_{Ru}^2 + 16b^2/9) \geq M_G f_L$
- And  $d_{Ru} = V_u/(18bS_u) + d/2 + 2b/3 \leq d$

$M_u$  - ultimate moment capacity

$d_{Ru}$  - depth to rotation axis at ultimate load

$d$  – embedment depth

$b$  – face width of embedded  
post/pier **(0.38 ft)**

$S_u$  - undrained soil shear strength **(7 psi)**

$V_u$  - ultimate shear load ( $V_G * f_L$ )

$f_L$  – ASD factor of safety for lateral  
resistance

# EXAMPLE 4: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

- Lateral Foundation Design Factor of Safety –  
Soil Type verified at construction site (Table 5.5, PFBDM)

$$f_L = 2.2$$

- $V_u = 980 \times 2.2 = 2,156 \text{ lb}$
- Assuming **d = 4 ft** and substituting parameters into equation,

$$d_{Ru} = V_u / (18bS_u) + d/2 + 2b/3 \leq d$$

- $d_{Ru} = 2156 / [(18)(0.38)(1008)] + 4/2 + 2(0.38)/3 = 2.56 \text{ ft}$

# EXAMPLE 4: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

- Substituting  $z = d = 4$  ft and  $d_{Ru} = 2.56$  ft. into the design criteria

$$M_u = 9bS_u(d^2/2 - d_{Ru}^2 + 16b^2/9) \geq 0$$

$$M_u = (9)(0.38)(2016)[(4)^2/2 - (2.56)^2 + 16(0.38)^2/9] = 4,985 \text{ lb.ft}$$

$$M_u/f_L = 4985/2.2 = 2492 \text{ lb-ft} < M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

# EXAMPLE 4: POST FOUNDATION LATERAL RESISTANCE DESIGN

- Substituting  $z = d = 4.5$  ft into the two design criteria yields

$$d_{Ru} = 2.80 \text{ ft} \quad \text{and} \quad M_u = \mathbf{6,625 \text{ lb.ft}}$$

$$M_u/f_L = 6,625/2.2 = 3,011 \text{ lb-ft} < M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb-ft}$$

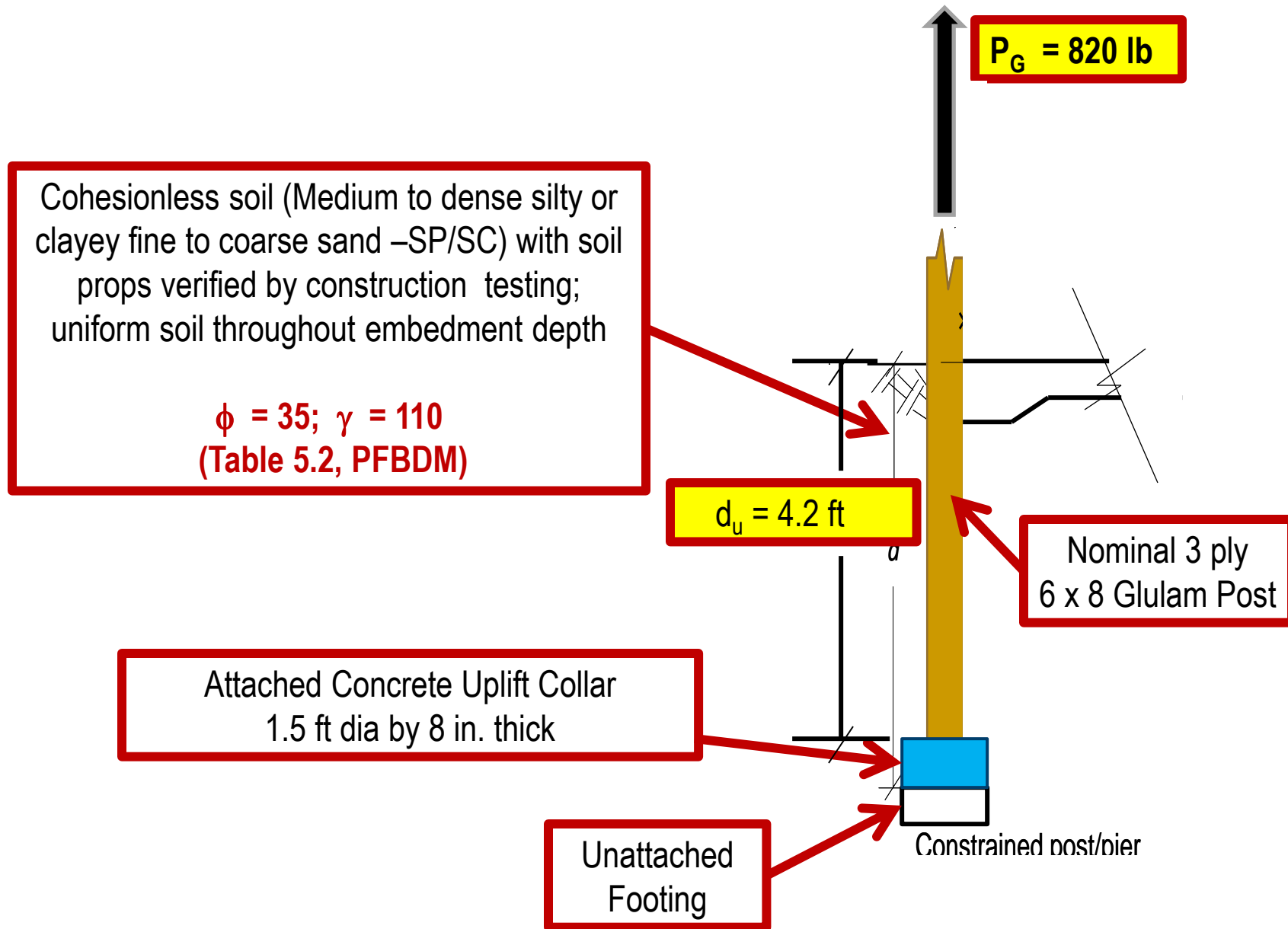
- Substituting  $z = d = 4.75$  ft into the two design criteria yields

$$d_{Ru} = 2.92 \text{ ft} \quad \text{and} \quad M_u = \mathbf{10,380 \text{ lb.ft}}$$

$$\text{and } M_u/f_L = 10,380/2.2 = 4,718 \text{ lb.ft} \approx M_G = 4,600 \text{ lb.ft}$$

(4.75 ft embedment depth is satisfactory)

## EXAMPLE 5: UPLIFT LOAD RESISTANCE



# EXAMPLE 5: POST FOUNDATION DESIGN: UPLIFT RESISTANCE

ASD Design Criterion

$$gM_f + U/f_u \geq P_{ASD} \quad (\text{Section 5.10.1, PFBDM})$$

$gM_f$  = weight of attached footing and/or anchor

$U$  = uplift resistance from soil mass above anchor

$f_u$  = ASD factor of safety for uplift resistance

$P_{ASD}$  = ASD design uplift load **(820 lb)**

# EXAMPLE 5: POST FOUNDATION DESIGN - UPLIFT RESISTANCE

- **Shallow Foundation Criterion** for uplift anchor in cohesionless Soil (S. 5.10.3, PFBDM)

$$d_u \leq B_u(5.78 - 0.350\phi + 0.00947 \phi^2) = h$$

$d_u$  - depth to top of uplift anchor = **4.2 ft**

$h$  - limiting depth for shallow case

$B_u$  - diameter of attached concrete collar = **1.5 ft.**

$\phi$  - angle of internal friction = **35**

- $h = (1.5)[5.78 - 0.35(35) + 0.00947(35^2)] = \mathbf{7.6 \text{ ft}}$
- Since  $d_u = \mathbf{4.2 \text{ ft}} < h$ , the foundation is **shallow** for uplift

# EXAMPLE 5: POST FOUNDATION DESIGN - UPLIFT RESISTANCE

- U- resisting force due to mass of soil above cylindrical collar (EP486.2, Section 12.5.1.1 or **Section 5.10.3, PFBDM**)

$$U = \gamma d_u [\pi d_u s_F B_u K_u \tan \phi / 2 + B_u^2 \pi / 4 - A_p]$$

$d_u$  = embedment depth to uplift anchor = **4.2 ft**

$\gamma$  = soil density = **110 pcf**

$B_u$  = anchor diameter = **1.5 ft.**

$A_p$  = post X-sectional area =  **$4.5(7.25)/144 = 0.23 \text{ ft}^2$**

$s_F$  =  $1 + 1.105(10^{-5}) \phi^{2.815} h / B_u$  = **1.69**

$K_u$  = **0.95** (S. 5.10.3, PFBDM)

$\tan \phi / 2$  =  $\tan(17.5)$  = **0.31**



# EXAMPLE 5: POST FOUNDATION DESIGN - UPLIFT RESISTANCE

- U- resisting force due to mass of soil above anchor

$$U = \gamma d_u [\pi d_u s_F B_U K_U \tan \phi / 2 + B_u^2 \pi / 4 - A_p]$$

$$U = 110(4.2) \{ \pi(4.2)(1.69)(1.5)(0.95)(\tan(17.5)) + (1.5)^2 (\pi/4) - (4.5)(7.25)/144 \}$$

$$U = \mathbf{5,258 \text{ lb}}$$

- $f_u = 1.4 / (1.16 - 0.015\phi) = \mathbf{2.2}$
- $gM_F = \gamma_c [\pi B_u^2 / 4 - A_p] (t_c) = 150 [3.14)(1.5)^2 / 4 - 0.23] (0.67) = \mathbf{154 \text{ lb}}$
- Substituting into the governing design equation

$$gM_F + U/f_u = 154 + 5,258/2.2 = \mathbf{2,554 \text{ lb} > P_{ASD} = 820 \text{ lb}}$$

- The collar size & location is satisfactory

# CLOSURE

- Embedment Depth for Constrained Case  $<$  Non-constrained Case – Always true for same loads and soils
- Embedment Depth for Cohesive Case  $<$  Non-cohesive Case – Not always true

# DESIGN AID FOR SHALLOW POST & PIER FOUNDATIONS

- Shallow Post and Pier Design Workbook (Excel Workbook)
- Post and Pier Design Aid User's Guide (Word File)

[www.nfba.org/Resources/Technical](http://www.nfba.org/Resources/Technical)

# SHALLOW FOUNDATION DESIGN AID WORKBOOK OVERVIEW (SECTIONS)

- Introduction
- Definitions and Nomenclature
- Soil Profile
- **Bearing Strength Assessment**
- Lateral Strength Assessment-U (Universal Method)
- **Lateral Strength Assessment-S (Simplified Method)**
- **Uplift Strength Assessment**

# MORE POST-FRAME STRUCTURAL DESIGN DETAILS?

**NFBA's On-Line University Course, "Engineering Design of  
Post Frame Building Systems" (1 ceu per session)**

**[www.nfba.org](http://www.nfba.org)**

**Session 1: Introduction to Post Frame Building Systems**

**Session 2: 2015 Post Frame Building Design Manual (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)**

**Session 3: Non-Diaphragm Post-Frame Building Design Guide – 2019**

**Session 4: Non-Diaphragm Post-Frame Structural Design Examples: Engineering  
Details**

**Session 5: Architectural Alternatives for Post-Frame Building Systems**

**Session 6: Modern Post-Frame Structural Design Practice: An Introduction**

**Session 7: Diaphragm Design of Post Frame Using Sway & Shear Modifiers –  
Engineering Details**

**Session 8: Diaphragm Design of Post Frame Using DAFI – Engineering Details**

**Session 9: Simplified Method for Shallow Post and Pier Foundation Design**

**Session 10: Universal Method for Shallow Post and Pier Foundation Design**

**Session 11: Design Aid for Shallow Post and Pier Foundations**

# MORE ABOUT POST FRAME?

- National Frame Building Association (NFBA)
- [www.NFBA.org](http://www.NFBA.org)
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