

SECONDARY CONSUMER INFORMATION & HANDLING GUIDE FOR OSMOSE REMEDIALLY TREATED WOOD POLES

CONSUMER INFORMATION

New wood utility poles are preserved by pressure treatment with EPA registered pesticides. Original pressure treatments include creosote, pentachlorophenol, copper naphthenate and inorganic arsenicals. These materials protect poles from decay and insect attack, but begin to lose their effectiveness after a number of years in service.

Remedial treatments are designed to prolong the service lives of in-place wood poles. Remedial treatments include or have included in the past:

- pastes containing creosote, copper naphthenate and sodium fluoride,
- liquids containing sodium fluoride, inorganic arsenicals or copper naphthenate;
- liquid or solid fumigants which are contained in small tubes.

Remedial treatments are applied in the area where the pole is set into the ground and work together with the remaining pressure treatment to protect the wood. Exposure to any wood preservative, either original pressure or remedial treatment, may present certain hazards. Therefore, the following precautions should be taken when handling wood poles and when determining appropriate secondary uses.

USE SITE PRECAUTIONS

Wood from pressure treated utility poles, which may also contain remedial treatments, should not be used inside residences or other buildings. Wood utility poles are intended for outdoor use. Secondary uses should also be limited to the out-of-doors.

Do not use wood from treated utility poles under circumstances where it may contact or become a component of food or animal feed. Examples of such sites would be structures or containers for storing silage or animal feed.

Do not use treated wood from utility poles for cutting-boards, countertops, benches or tables. Because treated utility poles may contain surface residues, they should not be used for patios, decks or walkways, but may be used for supports, borders or retaining walls.

Treated wood from utility poles should not be used where it may come into contact with drinking water.

HANDLING PRECAUTIONS

Treated wood from utility poles should not be burned in open fires or in stoves, fireplaces or residential boilers, because toxic chemicals may be produced as part of the smoke and ashes.

Avoid inhalation of sawdust from treated wood utility poles. When sawing treated utility poles, wear a dust mask. Sawing operations should only be performed outdoors.

When power-sawing, wear goggles to protect eyes from flying particles. Treated wood from utility poles may contain materials which cause skin irritation. Always wear long sleeves and gloves capable of protecting hands from skin contact when sawing, drilling or handling treated utility poles.

Follow good personal hygiene after handling wood from treated utility poles. Wash hands and any exposed areas thoroughly after handling treated wood poles, especially before eating, drinking or using tobacco products.

If preservative or sawdust from treated wood poles accumulates on clothes, launder before reuse. Launder work clothes separately from other clothing.

Aluminum tubes which may still contain preservatives may be present with the butt-end of the pole. Precautions should be taken to avoid direct contact with these materials.

If an aluminum tube becomes separated from a pole, handle only with rubber or plastic gloves. Place tube into a container such as a metal can with a lid and keep outdoors. Call 1-800-877-7653, extension 3404 between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. eastern time for further instructions.