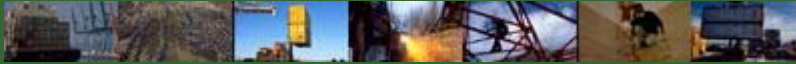




Safety Meeting Outline



SMO 07- 0102

PRESERVATIVES ARE “PEOPLE POISONS”

By SeaBright Insurance Loss Control

Pressure-treated wood is an excellent option and can provide excellent service for many decades. The predominant preservatives are: Creosote (used primarily for railroad ties and pilings), Pentachlorophenol (an oil-borne preservative used frequently for utility poles), and Chromated Copper Arsenate - CCA (a water-borne solution most commonly used on lumber, plywood, and timbers). These preservatives protect against insects (primarily termites), fungi, and marine borers. They are toxic to whatever is attracted to the wood. They are at the same time, toxic to human beings as well... some more so than others. So the key to avoid problems as a result of handling treated wood is to learn about the particular products you use. The first step is to Read the Material Safety Data Sheet BEFORE using the product.

Creosote is one of the most commonly used preservatives. It is characterized by a distinctive, tar-like aroma and is frequently used preserving pilings and utility poles. It is a terrific product, but it is nasty stuff. It is associated with cancer and cellular changes, and you should avoid getting it on your skin, or breathing its vapors. Creosote is now banned from sale in the retail trade, so that should give you some idea as to its toxicity. If you handle pilings or poles treated with it, always wear neoprene rubber gloves and protective gear. Normal cotton work-wear may absorb creosote and thus allow it to be absorbed by the skin.

“Penta” (pentachlorophenol), sometimes called PCP, is found in pressure treated lumber used in construction. This oil-based and can be most commonly found in use with utility poles. The chemical is exceedingly toxic, and protective gloves and apparel must be worn to avoid skin absorption. Many health problems including cancer and leukemia have been documented for those people having the misfortune to become extremely over-exposed. As a result it is not used widely in construction today.

More common today, is pressure-treated lumber treated with various metallic compounds comprised largely of arsenic, chrome, copper, zinc or ammonium. Two prevalent compounds are known as “CCA” and “ACA.” Fortunately, the health hazards associated with these products are less than the other products mentioned above, but they are still toxic and you should protect yourself. Wood that is treated with CCA is not classified as hazardous because in the course of pressure-treatment, CCA “fixes” to the wood in a way that makes the chemical highly insoluble and leach resistant.

Never burn wood scrapes from treated lumber of any kind. This will only put the harmful toxins into the atmosphere where they will be inhaled unknowingly. The introduction of fire with these preservatives can create a chemical reaction in which more toxic forms of the chemical are produced.

If you are required to apply wood preservatives, wear a respirator fitted with an organic vapor cartridge if noted on the MSDS. Preservatives should be applied only in a well ventilated area. When cutting treated wood, avoid vapors or wood dust by using a respirator as well. You will probably be unable to avoid working with treated lumber if you are engaged in marine work, so understanding the health hazards and personal protective equipment are the keys to safety.

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SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

DEPARTMENT/JOB SITE: _____ MEETING DATE: _____

1. **Open Meeting & Present safety topic:** _____
2. Read minutes from previous meeting.
3. **Persons present:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. **Old Business** – Status of previous recommendations. Discuss pending old business if any.

5. **Accidents** – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting. Brief summary of accidents to date by number and type. Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken, or needed. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.

6. **Inspection Reports** – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.

7. **New Business** – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

TIME MEETING STARTED: _____ TIME FINISHED: _____

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____ TITLE: _____