

Q: What disposal options are available after poles are taken out of service?

A: Because they are not considered to be a hazardous waste, penta poles can be safely reused and recycled in a number of ways, such as fence posts and farm lighting. In fact, industry data indicate that nearly 70 percent of out-of-service poles are re-used.

Penta poles can be burned for energy recovery in combustion units and industrial boilers that are allowed to burn penta-treated wood because penta does not contain any toxic metals, unlike some other wood preservatives. This results in almost complete destruction of the penta, with dioxin/furan emissions comparable to that from ordinary particleboard.

If re-used or energy recovery options are not available. Penta poles can be safely disposed of in landfills in accordance with state and local requirements.

Q: What precautions can be taken to minimize exposure to penta?

A: A number of safety precautions should be taken when handling, using or disposing of penta-treated wood to minimize potential health effects. These include wearing protective gloves and clothing, washing clothes and exposed skin, and adhering to common sense precautions, such as not burning penta poles or using penta-treated wood in places where there will be frequent or prolonged contact with humans and animals.

The Consumer Information Sheet-Pentachlorophenol pressure-Treated Wood that was jointly developed by the American Wood Preservers Institute and the EPA provides useful safety and handling guidance.

Q: Why do linemen prefer penta poles?

A: Linemen prefer penta-treated poles because they are easy to install, easy to maintain, and are safe to work with in a range of weather conditions.

Most maintenance is simple and can be performed by a lineman on the spot. If linemen need to climb penta pole, they can quickly attach gaffs and climb without delay - working on more poles, more quickly.

Penta's "lineman friendly" characteristics are well established throughout the industry. That's why penta poles are chosen for events at annual International Linemen's Rodeo.

Q: Are people who work with penta poles at risk?

A: Numerous scientific studies and 60-year history of effective use demonstrate that penta does not cause adverse health effects when properly used. With proper application, handling and use, exposures to penta among wood treaters, linemen and others who work with penta are low-typically far below levels at which test animals have shown any toxic effects - and well within safety margins.

Penta has not been shown to cause cancer in humans. Concerns about penta's potential health effects are based on the results of tests performed on laboratory animals. As a result of these tests, penta has been shown to be a weak carcinogen that is classified as "possibly carcinogenic to humans".



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Penta FAQ

Q: How do penta poles costs compare to other utility poles?

A: Competitively priced, penta poles true value is in the cost savings they produce throughout their lifespan.

Penta's preservative characteristics ensure that poles typically last 40 years or longer. In fact, penta poles replacement rate averages less than four percent per decade with periodic maintenance, according to in-service records from several utility companies.

Penta poles save time and costs associated with storage and installation because they do not require special equipment. Labor costs are reduced because penta poles are flexible, thereby minimizing breakage.

Even after they are removed from service, penta poles still provide a long-term cost benefit because they can be re-used, recycled or safely disposed of in landfills in accordance with state and local requirements.

Q: What is the availability of penta-treated poles?

A: Time and again, penta pole production has met emergency demand caused by natural disasters, such as hurricanes, ice storms and tornados. Of the preservations available for treating wood, only penta is created from two basic and widely available chemicals: phenol and chlorine. This makes penta a commodity product, with stable pricing, reliable supplies and a track record of use for more than 60 years.

Penta manufacturers are firmly committed to producing ample supplies for the market, and they continue to work with the EPA to ensure penta re-registration

