

Safety Alert



A Publication of PPL Services Safety Operations

Date: November 16, 2010

Effective Date: Immediately

Alert Type: Safety Message Handling MITC Fume Treated Poles

Affected Department(s): PPL Electric Utilities Corp.

Summary: Reinforce expectation Revised expectation New expectation

Description:

Osmose Corporation is treating PPL poles with a product called **MITC Fume**, a wood preservative pesticide to control wood rot and decay-causing fungi. MITC Fume is a solid/crystallized chemical in an aluminum tube placed into bored holes at the base of a pole, one foot below ground line to three feet above ground line. The solid/crystallized chemical turns to gas (activated by heat) and completely dissipates over a period of approximately four years. When the tubes are sealed and contained within wood poles, they are not a hazard to the environment, the public, or anyone working around the pole. If tubes are damaged or exposed, they pose a potential health risk and special handling is required. A photo of a MITC Fume tube is shown below:



Poles inspected and treated with MITC Fume tubes are marked with metal tags by Osmose. One tag will identify Osmose and the year the inspection took place. A second tag will be applied noting the type of fumigant used, i.e. MITC Fume, etc. These tags are placed five to six feet above ground level on the road side of the pole. Examples of this tagging method are displayed. The tag on the left notes that the pole was fully excavated and treated with MITC. The tag on the right notes that the pole was inspected and treated with MITC.



Hazard:

The primary hazard associated with exposure to the crystals within the MITC Fume tubes is dermal contact. Impermeable gloves, i.e. nitrile or similar shall be worn to prevent contact to this substance. Wear goggles, safety glasses or a face shield to protect the eyes. Avoid inhalation of MITC FUME vapors. Do not handle the tubes in an enclosed space.

If possible, the aluminum tubes should be picked up remotely (with tongs, pliers or similar tool) and placed back in the pole. **If this is not possible, STOP. Proceed using the following instructions:**

- Don protective impermeable gloves and safety glasses or face shield for eye protection.
- Pick up the tubes remotely (with tongs, pliers or similar tool) and place into a separate container that can be sealed.
- Transport the sealed container and tubes back to the Service Center. Do not carry the container in the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

- If the chemical gets on the skin, flush the area with water.
- Place the container in a well-ventilated area preferably outside and contact Kerry Ueberroth of Osmose Corporation at **1.717.413.0957** or **1.800.877.POLE (7653)** for pick-up and disposal.

If the tube has been broken open and its contents spilled at a location:

- Don personal protective equipment and follow the steps noted above.
- Gather any soil that the chemical may have contacted and place in the container with the damaged tube.
- Contact PPL's Environmental Management Department Hotline at: **1.610.774.5566** or **1.877.393.5805** and Kerry Ueberroth of Osmose Corporation at **1.717.413.0957** or **1.800.877.POLE (7635)**.

Disposal of poles that contain MITC Fume vials:

A Review of the EPA Regulations defining the criteria for a waste to be considered as hazardous finds that MITC FUME treated poles do not meet the criteria of a hazardous waste.

The presence of MITC FUME tubes in the pole at the time of disposal does not add to the hazards presented by disposing of the pole in a landfill. Furthermore, by leaving the tube in the pole, the product is allowed to diffuse throughout the pole in the manner it was intended to. Being a fumigant, the MITC FUME will not persist in the pole long-term, and will have little or no impact on disposal procedures.

Cutting or drilling a pole containing MITC Fume vials:

- Cut or drill no less than one foot above the highest dowel sealing the MITC Fume tube in the pole.
- Cut or drill no less than two feet below the lowest dowel sealing in the MITC Fume tube in the pole.

Required Action:

Employees shall take the actions noted above when a pole containing a MITC Fume tube is discovered or identified. Employees shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment when exposure to MITC Fume tubes is likely.

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the MITC Fume tube is available upon request.

Communication Expectation:

Supervisors are to review this information with employees within 48 hours. This Safety Alert will be posted until December 1, 2010.

Owner: PPL Electric Utilities Corp. with PPL Services Corporation Safety Operations

Questions or concerns: Please contact your local Safety & IH Specialist

Link to Safety Operations Website: <http://inside.ppl.com/pplservices/safetyops/>