



Creosote Risks



A report has recently been received by a DNO that a child has come into contact with a pole that had been left along a grass verge in preparation for erecting during a shutdown planned for some days later. The young boy sat on the pole and got creosote on his hands. He then rubbed his hands on his face which caused irritation to his skin (creosote burns) similar to sun burn.

This Safety Bulletin serves to remind all operatives of the importance of ensuring all poles are handled and stored in such a way to minimise any health and safety risk to themselves or to the public.

Learning Points

1. Work should be planned to minimise the time that poles are stored on site
2. Poles should be stored in a safe manner, where practicable away from public thoroughfares and children's play areas
3. Any pole stored on a grass verge should only ever be there for a short time and if left unattended should have appropriate barriers and signage
4. In hot weather every effort should be made to store poles in a shaded area
5. Poles showing excessive surface creosote should be returned to the depot and the supplier informed

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