

Protect your poles from fire with FireSheath™ Coating

Spray a fire wall around susceptible poles



No longer does fire have to be a threat to your poles. A field-applied fire retardant coating called FireSheath™ fire retardant coating will help protect poles against the common types of fire that can damage or even topple a pole.

Applied by brush, roller, or power sprayer (preferably airless sprayer), the intumescent coating foams up in the event of a fire, creating char which insulates underlying wood from the fire's heat. In the ASTM E 84 tunnel

test, wood coated with the formulation qualified as a Class A fire retardant material, with a Flame Spread rating of 5 and a Smoke Developed rating of 65.

Whether used as a preventive measure against periodic brush fires, applied prior to a controlled burn for an extra measure of safety, or put on poles ahead of an oncoming fire, FireSheath™ coating can save poles and prevent outages.

The coating will remain effective for several years, depending on application, weather, and incursion and duration of fires. As with all coatings, annual inspection to repair abnormalities is recommended. Such repairs are easily and readily accomplished with FireSheath™ coating.

Developed in Canada and used in prairie areas since the early 2000s, the latex-based coating is being marketed in the United States and elsewhere by Arch Wood Protection, Inc., manufacturer of wood preservatives and fire retardants. The company licenses the production of Wolmanized® pressure-treated wood, and created the innovative ET® emulsion as a climbing enhancement for CCA-treated poles.

Typically, the gray FireSheath™ paste is applied from the pole's groundline to a height of about six feet. Local conditions may dictate a different zone. It is not necessary to dig a deep hole around the pole.

The product is packaged in 5-gallon pails. This is enough coating to cover approximately 750 sq. ft. of surface. It dries in 24 hours.



FireSheath™ coating also provides effective protection to fence posts and bridge timbers.



At right is a line of poles treated with fire retardant coating; in the background, smoke appears from an approaching wildfire. Above is a coated pole and an uncoated pole after a field test.



DIRECTIONS FOR USE

Stir FireSheath™ coating to an even consistency before applying. Thickness of coverage should be 11 wet mils. For optimum results, apply by airless sprayer; spray line pressure at the spray tip should range from 2000 to 3000 PSI. For easiest application, use a .015"-.018" tip. Brush or roller may also be used.

The coating is ready-to-use. Do not alter the contents of the pail; dilution will adversely affect the flamespread rating. Clean application equipment with warm water before product sets up. Keep solution from freezing.

At the recommended thickness of 11 wet mils, 5 gallons of FireSheath™ coating will cover approximately 750 sq. ft.

Circumference of pole	Square feet of 6' high band	Poles treatable at 11 mils by 5 gallons
60"	30	~ 25
45"	22.5	~ 33
30"	15	~ 50
15"	7.5	~ 100



Above, a thin layer of FireSheath™ intumescent coating has swollen to a thickness that protects underlying wood. At right, with a burner held 7.75" away for 5 minutes, this coated plywood was affected in only a confined area.



For information on other products with fire retardant qualities, visit www.useFRTW.com.

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How to save a line ...

Before fire could overtake its power poles, one western coop set into action a plan to save its line. With four different crews, the company fire-proofed the poles in the path of a fire, greatly reducing the number of downed and destroyed poles.



First, vegetation was removed up to 3' around every structure.



Shallow excavations were dug around each pole. A depth of only 1" to 2" is necessary; just enough to coat the groundline.



For typical grassland conditions, FireSheath™ coating is applied to a height of 6'. Here coating was spread to 10'. In dense forested areas or where brush is high, it may be advantageous to go higher.



Last, a crew back-filled the dirt that had been excavated and then touched up any area of the pole that needed it.