Presentation Sections

- Homeowners/Home Builders
- Children’s playground equipment sellers/Children’s playground equipment buyers
- Implications for the Future
It extends the life span of lumber, but the Environmental Protection Agency says arsenic treated wood might cut life short for our children.

"I believe this is a children's safety issue," Crow pleaded. "If you don't protect these children, their blood will be on your hands."

Rep. Larry Crow, Palm Harbor, Florida, after his bill to ban arsenic-treated wood from Florida's public playgrounds failed to pass.

“Wave of opponents kills Crow's treated-wood bill” St. Petersburg Times, November 28, 2001
Pressure-treated wood linked to Mississippi couple’s health nightmares

Poisoned dreams

As publicity increases, more people are coming forward with medical problems believed caused by arsenic in pressure-treated wood.

© 2002 The Gainesville Sun

By RON MATUS
Sun staff writer

Hernando, Miss. Lynn and Thomas Milam live in a cramped travel trailer 50 yards from the dream home they never finished.

In front of the house, with its giant windows overlooking a small lake, stacks of lumber sit in a weed-ridden yard. Inside, the sawdust is so thick the Milams could write their names in it.

“It makes me sad every time I see it,” said Thomas Milam, emerging from the trailer one day last week.

And for good reason: Doctors say the arsenic-treated wood the Milams were using in the house made both of them seriously ill.

And it apparently put enough arsenic in Lynn Milam’s system to lead doctors, local police and even the FBI to investigate her husband for attempted murder.

What happened to the Milams has led to another product liability lawsuit against the treated-wood industry.

It is also the most dramatic example yet of illness or injury linked to chromated copper arsenate, or CCA, the potent pesticide that has come under fire for health risks ever since a Gainesville playground closed two years ago.

In this case, the alleged

Tom and Lynn Milam stand in front of their unfinished dream home in Hernando, Mississippi. The couple claim to have been poisoned by using arsenic-treated wood.

WOOD WORRIES

A CONTINUING LOOK AT THE CONTROVERSY OVER ARSENIC-TREATED WOOD

FOR MORE ON ARSENIC-TREATED WOOD ONLINE: Go to www.gainesvillesun.com/ARCHIVES/articles/woodarchive.shtml

victims have unusual sympathizers in their corner — the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the local prosecutor.

The FBI put Thomas Milam under scrutiny two years ago after his wife was repeatedly hospitalized with severe vomiting, diarrhea, nausea and cramps. According to a complaint filed in a Mississippi circuit court, baffled doctors eventually found arsenic levels in her system more than 100 times above normal.

They told Lynn Milam she probably was being poisoned by her husband, and then called police.

“We thought we potentially had an attempted murder,” Mississippi District Attorney John Champion said.

But the case took a bizarre

WOOD on Page 11A
If Arsenic-Treated Wood is Too Toxic for Zoo Animals...

Why Does The Home Depot Think it's Safe for Your Kids?

From the Bronx Zoo to the San Diego Zoo wooden products treated with arsenic have been banned as "unsuitable for animals."

Why is Home Depot still selling these products to American families?

The nation's largest home improvement chain calls "pressure-treated" lumber treated with a pesticide called chromated copper arsenate (CCA). It's used in garden decks, outdoor furniture, even some in and playgrounds.

Everyone knows arsenic can kill you. Studies show that kids ingest arsenic when it rubs off on their playgrounds and outdoor hands. The National Research Council says that ingestion of arsenic, even at low levels, is indisputably linked to skin, bladder, and lung cancer, and that there are strong links to diabetes, high blood pressure, reproductive, and respiratory problems.

Many reputable playground manufacturers have stopped using arsenic-treated wood. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is considering a ban. Yet despite all of this evidence, Home Depot continues to keep its hands in the soil.

Next time you visit Home Depot, please ask the manager to stop putting arsenic in your wood. Don't induedly stretch with your Family's Health.

If, at costs on Home Depot lumber show alarming levels of arsenic contamination, see our website for details and information on inexpensive home testing kits.
“The amount of arsenic that could be absorbed from playground soil and CCA treated wood is not significant compared to natural sources and will not result in detectable arsenic intake."

“The level of arsenic in or around CCA treated wood in playgrounds and recreational facilities does not appear sufficient to adversely affect the health of children or adults."

“Panel Finds No Danger From Playground Wood”, The Florida Physicians Arsenic Workgroup, August 8, 2002
“The risk of immediate illness from short-term exposure to chemicals from CCA-treated wood is low. Although arsenic can be poisonous at very high doses, the amounts measured on CCA-treated wood are a thousand times less than a lethal dose.”

Homeowners/Home Builders
Homeowners

(n=451)

5%  42%  37%  16%
# New House Purchase/Build Criteria

Mean Scores; Scale: 1=least important to 5=most important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Builder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy efficient</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of the house</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resale value</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance to wood destroying insects</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance to wind damage</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance to flooding</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free from as many chemicals as possible</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>0-10 Years</td>
<td>11-25 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HO</td>
<td>HB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturally durable species (cedar, redwood)</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Treated lumber products</em></td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall Perception About Treated Wood
(n=433/115)

- Extremely Negative: 2% Homeowners, 1% Home Builders
- Somewhat Negative: 3% Homeowners, 4% Home Builders
- Midpoint: 32%
- Somewhat Positive: 40%, 38%
- Extremely Positive: 23%, 32%

Percent of Respondents
Concern about Using Treated Wood in Home Construction?

Home Builders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total (n=116)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Willingness to Use Treated Wood in Your Home?

Homeowners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total (n=436)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concerns About Using Treated Wood
Percent of Respondents / Multiple Responses Possible

- **Health Concerns**
  - Homeowners: 21%
  - Home Builders: 36%

- **Long-term Product Performance**
  - Homeowners: 8%
  - Home Builders: 22%

- **Cost**
  - Homeowners: 7%
  - Home Builders: 20%

- **Poor Building Material**
  - Homeowners: 6%
  - Home Builders: 5%

Homeowners/Home Builders
How Opinions Regarding Treated Wood Were Formed
Percent of Respondents/ Multiple Responses Possible

- **Friends/Family**: 21% Homeowners, 4% Home Builders
- **Magazines**: 21% Homeowners, 47% Home Builders
- **Newspaper**: 19% Homeowners, 14% Home Builders
- **Television**: 17% Homeowners, 6% Home Builders
- **Radio**: 3% Homeowners, 1% Home Builders
- **Internet**: 1% Homeowners, 1% Home Builders
Are Some Types of Treated Lumber Safer Than Others?

(n=441/114)

**Homeowners**
- Yes: 31%
- No: 7%
- Not Sure: 62%

**Home Builders**
- Yes: 30%
- No: 17%
- Not Sure: 53%
Knowledge of Treated Wood Consumer Information Sheets (n=442/114)

Homeowners
- Yes: 21%
- No: 79%

Home Builders
- Yes: 66%
- No: 33%

Safe Handling Information for CCA Preserved Wood
CAUTION: ARSENIC IS IN THE PESTICIDE APPLIED TO THIS WOOD
- NEVER BURN TREATED WOOD
- WEAR DUST MASK & GOGGLES WHEN CUTTING OR SANDING WOOD
- WEAR GLOVES WHEN WORKING WITH WOOD

Ask for the Consumer Safety Information Sheet or call 1-800-282-0600. www.ccasafetyinfo.com
Entity Trusted to Provide Consumers with Treated Wood Safety and Handling Information

Homeowners
- Environmental organizations
- A wood industry association
- State government
- Individual wood products companies

Home Builders
- Individual wood products companies
- State government
- A wood industry association
- Environmental organizations
# Treated Wood Applications in Current Residence/In Homes Built in Past 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Homeowners</th>
<th>Home Builders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decks</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping timbers</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor structures</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor furniture</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall/roof/floor framing</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home exteriors</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent wood foundations</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Treated Wood Safety Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safe</th>
<th>Homeowner</th>
<th>Home Builder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treated lumber is safe for outdoor human contact applications</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With proper use, handling and disposal of treated lumber is entirely safe</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated lumber is safe to builders</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated lumber is safe to children for outdoor play equipment</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated lumber is safe to be near pets or farm animals</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unsafe</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treated lumber is safe to residents for indoor applications</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated lumber is safe for food handling</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children’s Playground Equipment Manufacturers/Users
Children’s Playground Equipment Users

(n=431)

- 34% (Midwest)
- 21% (West)
- 32% (South)
- 14% (Northeast)
Children’s Playground Equipment Users

- Day Care Center: 26%
- City Parks Department: 24%
- Pre-School/Nursery School: 22%
- County Parks Department: 9%
- Public K-8 Schools: 4%
- Parochial K-8 Schools: 4%
- School District Administrative Offices: 5%
- Secondary Schools: 3%
- Private (Non-Parochial) K-8 Schools: 3%
Playset Materials Manufacturing/ Purchase Criteria

Scale: 1 = Not Important at All; 3 = Somewhat Important; 5 = Very Important

- Free from as many chemicals as possible
- Minimize health risks
- Long-term performance
- Cost of the play set
- Effective years of service
- Resistance to harsh climate
- Resistance to wood destroying insects
- Low maintenance
- Resale value

Bar chart showing importance ratings from manufacturers and users.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>0-10 Years</th>
<th>11-25 Years</th>
<th>More than 25 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naturally durable species</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(cedar, redwood)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated lumber products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children’s Playground Equipment Manufacturers/Users

Playset Materials: Manufacturing/ Currently Installed
(Percent of Respondents—n=52/394)

- **PLASTIC**: 70%
- **STEEL**: 60%
- **TREATED WOOD**: 33% (48%)
- **ALUMINUM**: 40%
- **CEDAR**: 20%
- **REDWOOD**: 15%
- **UNTREATED WOOD**: 10%
- **CONCRETE**: 8%
- **HEMLOCK**: 3%

- **Manufacturers** | **Users**
Entity Trusted to Provide Consumers with Treated Wood Safety and Handling Information

Manufacturers
- Centers for Disease Control
- Playground equipment mfgs.
- Treated wood companies
- Environ. Protection Agency
- Federal government
- State government
- Chemical mfgs.
- Depts. of education

Users
- Centers for Disease Control
- Environ. Protection Agency
- Depts. of education
- State government
- Federal government
- Playground equipment mfgs.
- Treated wood companies
- Chemical mfgs.
Current Treated Wood Issues & Concerns
Toxic mold (Stachybotrys chartarum or Stachybotrys atra)
Substitutes
Plastic wood, Steel, Concrete, etc.
Recycling Out-of-Service Treated Wood
Housing Durability
Termites
Liability/Litigation
What Does the Future Hold?
The future for wood preservation is bright!

- Wood will continue to need protection from degrading factors, such as decay, insects, and fire.
- New preserving technologies hold promise.
- Innovation & research must continue to be a priority.
What To Do?

- Treated wood education targeting all demand sectors
- Don’t ignore the challenges
- Be proactive
- Fear not the future
What To Do?
Brand & Promote!
Questions?

For More Information, Contact:

Richard P. Vlosky or Todd F. Shupe
Louisiana Forest Products Development Center
School of Renewable Natural Resources
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: (225) 578-4527/6432
Fax: (225) 578-4251

Email: vlosky@lsu.edu
tshupe@agcenter.lsu.edu