



November 23, 2009

To: All Union Metal Customers

From: Union Metal Quality Control

Re: Pole Inspection & Maintenance Notification

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It has come to Union Metal's attention that over the past months, there have been a number of situations in which long-standing sports lighting poles have collapsed. These poles were manufactured by several different fabricators and were installed in various locations in the country. In all cases, the poles had been installed without issue for significant periods of time, some over 30 years. A theme in most cases of failure appears to be the belief by owners that the poles had an "indefinite" lifespan and required no maintenance or inspection once installed.

Union Metal Corporation, while not having any direct involvement in any of the above mentioned incidents, felt the situation warranted a brief notification to all its customers in order to rectify any misconceptions related to high-mast poles. As with any steel structure, and more so with any exposed regularly to the elements or installed outdoors, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that a regular and periodic system of inspections be performed on high-mast poles by qualified technicians to ensure at a minimum that bolts are tight, cracks have not developed, and surface coatings are intact. Regular maintenance is also required to rectify any deficiencies noted during the inspection process. It is up to the individual owner to determine the proper inspection and maintenance protocols for its poles based on factors such as location, age, and intended use.

While pole structures are extremely safe, have service lives over twenty years and have exceptionally low failure rates, in the interest of safety Union Metal wanted to take this opportunity to raise this important issue for pole structures in all applications. If there is anything we can do to assist you in this matter, or anything else related to pole design or fabrication, please do not hesitate to contact your local sales representative.