

Concrete Pole Handling Instructions

Ameron poles are made of prestressed concrete: a tough, elastic, durable material not limited by the properties of low strength, conventionally reinforced concrete. Like many other fabricated structures, Ameron poles are designed to withstand specific service loads and handling loads – with safety factors considered. Loads induced through handling perhaps are the ones most easily overlooked even though only a few simple rules need be remembered. Attention to the following will minimize damage from handling and storage.

A. STORAGE (See figures 1, 2 & 3)

1. Store on dunnage placed 1/5 of the total length from each end. Location of temporary support points may vary from this rule for both storage and handling. Dunnage is ideally made from 4 x 4 fir, pine, or similar wood which is finished enough to have opposite sides flat and parallel (no logs or branches). The dunnage should be in one piece for the full width of the stack and be of sufficient thickness as to allow the placing of slings or the insertion of forklift fingers between the layers of poles. Weathered lumber is better than newly-cut because the latter may stain the concrete when moisture is present.
2. Store on a level surface (if surface is not paved, be certain the ground is solid enough so that the dunnage does not sink into it).
3. When poles are stored in more than one layer, each piece of dunnage must be placed one above the other, so that the weight of the poles above is transmitted directly downward through the dunnage and does not induce bending stresses in the poles.
4. Distribution poles should be stacked no higher than nine layers and smaller poles no higher than twelve layers.
5. Each succeeding layer of poles should be placed with the tips in the opposite direction of the layer below.
6. Poles should be aligned so that the tips in each layer form a straight line normal to the center line of the poles.
7. Place wedges on the dunnage next to the poles to prevent their rolling.
8. Do not step on the cantilevered tips of small poles in storage. Handle poles with reasonable care so as to avoid dropping or otherwise striking them against each other or other hard, solid objects.

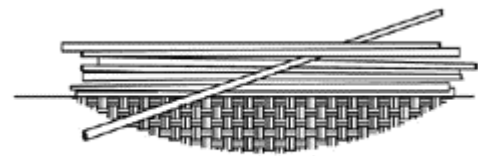


Figure 1
(Incorrect Storage)

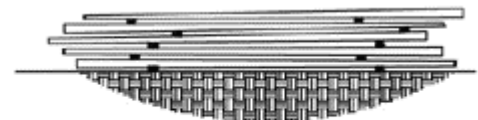


Figure 2
(Incorrect Storage)

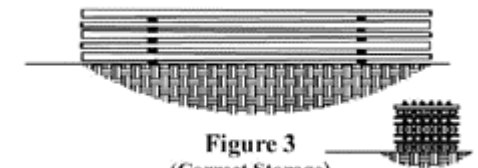


Figure 3
(Correct Storage)

B. HANDLING (See Figure 4)

1. In lifting the pole from a single pick-up point, use either a choker sling or a loop sling with one complete extra turn around the pole just above the balance point.
2. When lifting the pole using two pick-up points from a single hook, a choker-type attachment should be used on the pole.
3. Poles with a polished or textured surface should be handled with a nylon or other non-metallic sling. For these poles, fingers of a forklift should be fitted with protective covers.
4. When using a forklift to handle poles, always use softeners on the fork tines. Also, always use wedges to prevent poles from rolling.

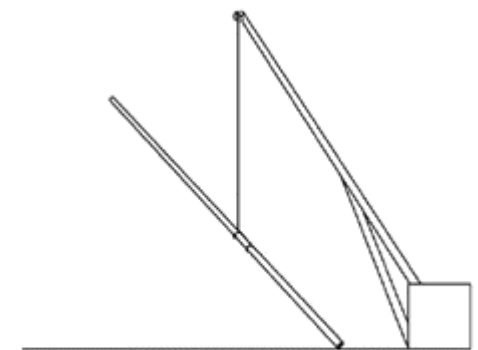


Figure 4
(Handling by Crane)