

Round Table: Wood dust and the elimination of a potential hazard: How far we've come and where we are going.

Responses:

How far we've come:

- New regulations force companies to deal with problems.
- British Columbia is a step in front of other provinces in terms of regulating dust control.
- Increased awareness from employee level up to management as to the hazards of dust and as a result hazard areas are being identified and put on to inspections and or cleaning schedules.
- Corrective involvement on all levels with increased education and awareness - it is everyone's responsibility.
- Training, coaching, mentoring employees responsible for dust cleanup.
- Starts with training, leads to awareness but need to ensure open communication is key so problems are discussed.

- Audits are put online for people to read.
- Daily dust audits are emailed to all management, supervisors and maintenance staff.
- Audits target a poor zone by sending a work order out or email to a cleanup supervised.
- Audits are reviewed for compliance.
- Audit forms designed in house.
- Each shift has a Dust Control Person that prepares a cleanup schedule but can be moved as needed.
- Inspection processes are identifying areas where processes or mechanical improvements can be made where dust accumulates.
- Daily audits for dust and switching auditors regularly.
- Daily audits, five days a week with PowerPoint pictures/presentations for cleanup crews.

- Cleanup persons are employed on each shift to take care of dust as it accumulates rather than waiting for to accumulate in dealing with it later.
- Cleanup positions are now recognized as being an important part of the crew. Shifts are no longer being run with a cleanup resources in place.
- Designated cleanup positions during production time to help in the areas of accumulation and or the areas that need attention during upset conditions and during the shift (coffee and lunch).
- Zone breakup of the mill for cleanup crews with a rotation of cleanup person so they are doing different areas and not developing any "dust blindness" from seeing the same area over and over again.
- Dedicated "Dust Bunnies".
- Increased cleanup presence during and in between shifts and on weekends – frequency of cleanup is crucial to not allow build up.



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- Cleanup crews use a selfie stick with timers and washers to measure depth of dust.
- Cleanup crews use checklists that indicate areas that need to be sealed up by maintenance staff.
- Cleanup crews are part of the production team because they are well trained, proactive and take ownership.

- Cleanup tools have been created that are innovative and allow personnel to reach and clean elevated surfaces.
- Adding water to compressed air for cleanup.
- A designated dust cleanup tool areas for all the employees to use, not just cleanup employees. Downtime is cleanup time.
- New employee dust tours and supporting cleanup personnel.
- Dust cleanup is dynamic and flexible in order to address issues as they arise- don't be too stuck on a schedule or problems can build up and not get attention.

- Updates to existing bag house systems including spark detection.
- Water misters and sonic fans – air and water together.
- Sonic fans in chipper rooms to help keep the dust down.
- Cladding to close in areas that don't need to be exposed. Plastic around machine centers.
- Amber LED lighting.
- User friendly sonic fans.
- MCC vacuum schedule.
- Pressurized MCC rooms.
- Dust removal systems and extraction around the canter, gang lines, and debarkers.
- Capturing dust at the source - more containment being installed, sprinkler systems at machine centers (ie. debarkers)
- Capturing dust at the source is now the best option with rules and procedures regarding compressed air cleanup being in place as well as pre-work hazard assessments.
- 80% attainment (baghouse installation, extra full-time cleanup people, anti-static curtains, lowering explosive limits in high risk areas, new construction/20% opportunity (Slope flat surfaces (is. Booth roofs), continue to perfect dust mitigation/elimination efforts (ie. schedules), enhance accessibility of hard to clean areas)
- Pyramid stack cable trays with spacing
- 60 degree angles on perlins.
- Control rooms are completely enclosed and walls extend to the ceiling so there is no dust collection on the roof.
- Shedder plates for beams.
- Maintaining and inspecting dust extraction systems – is the equipment working efficiently and to its potential.
- Air quality has dramatically improved since the installation of bag house, dust extraction systems

Where we are going:

- Federally mandated minimum requirements for dust control.
- More awareness – education of young and new workers, spread responsibility on everyone’s shoulders.
- Rules and regulations to bring into effect for changes that have been made in the mill (ie. cable trays, hydraulic lines, airlines, MCC panels). This needs to be done for new equipment, new buildings and re-fits or upgrades.
- Improved communication and employee engagement (ie. lunchroom TVs).
- Labour management is not the solution – programming and engineering designs for problem areas.
- More involvement from safety reps in dust audits.