

# WorkSafeBC Combustible Wood Dust Inspection Initiative Overview

## **2015 SHARP Safety Conference -**

**“Wood dust and the elimination of a potential hazard:  
How far we’ve come and where we are going.”**

Sept 25, 2015

# Combustible Dust Strategy

- 1 Inspectional Initiatives
- 2 Results
- 3 Information and Resources
- 4 Next Steps

# Overview of Inspection Initiatives

# Sustained Compliance Theme

“ the complete and effective implementation of robust dust mitigation, control and abatement strategies that are proven to function effectively even when Variables are introduced such as seasonality, changes in process or production temperature, new equipment etc.”

# Iterative process

Ongoing consideration and integration of:

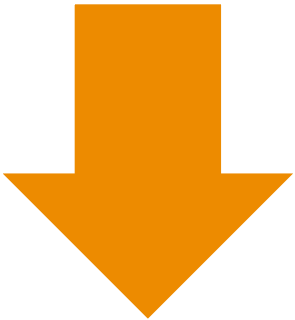
- Lessons Learned from Investigations
- Feedback from stakeholders
  - Employers
  - Workers
  - Officers
  - Others agencies



# Inspection Initiatives

2012

- Initial Sawmill Inspections (Directive Order to Sawmills)
- Inspections of other wood product sectors



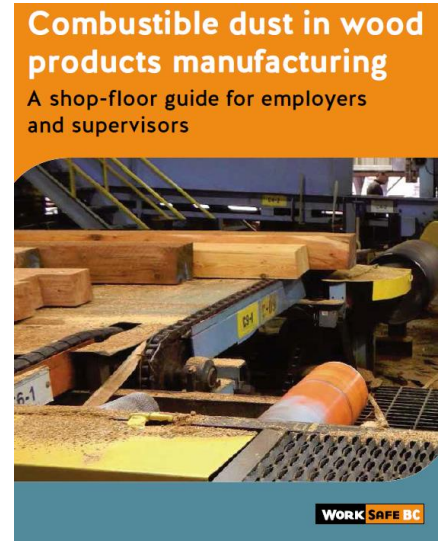
2015

- Sustained Compliance Initiative Winter 2013-14
  - Sustained Compliance Initiative Spring 2014
  - Sustained Compliance Initiative Fall 2014 (Macatee recommendations and new policies)
- 
- Sawmill Validation Inspections
  - Ongoing Pellet Inspections
  - Other Combustible Dust inspections

Information and Resources

# Information and Resources

- OH&S Guidelines
- New Prevention Policies
- Investigation updates
- Hazard Alerts and Bulletins
- Crew Talks and Toolbox Meeting Guides
- Dust management program development guide and checklist





# Combustible Wood Dust Management Program Development Guide

## HAZARD ALERT



### Combustible dust winter alert — increased risk in winter

The risk of a dust explosion increases when low humidity levels, like those seen in winter months, make dust easy to disperse and ignite. In fact, industrial accident investigations by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board found that seven out of eight fatal combustible dust explosions from 1995 to 2009 occurred during cold winter months when these weather conditions were most prominent.

## Toolbox Meeting Guide

### Combustible wood dust: awareness and controls

Be aware of the potential for a combustible wood dust fire or explosion in your workplace. If combustible wood dust collects in a building or structure or on machinery or equipment, it must be safely removed before built-up dust could cause a fire or explosion.

#### Dust explosion pentagon

### Wood Dust Mitigation and Control Audit

June 21, 2013



# Where to find information



The screenshot shows the WorkSafeBC website homepage. At the top, there are language options: English, 繁體中文, 简体中文, Français, 한국어, ਪੰਜਾਬੀ, Español, and Tiếng Việt. Below this is the WorkSafeBC logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Contact Us, Links, Newsroom, Careers, Sitemap, and Help. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a blue header with categories: WorkSafeBC.com, Insurance, Claims, Safety at Work, Publications, Forms, and Regulation & Policy. The primary banner is titled "Employer Safety Planning Tool Kit — Videos" and includes the text "Learn how three employers used their data to improve safety performance." It features a video player with a play button and a "Learn more" link. To the right of the banner is a "Subscribe to Enews" section with a "SUBSCRIBE" button.



# Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI)



- [HOME](#)
- [ABOUT FIPI](#)
- [EMPLOYERS](#)
- [WORKERS](#)
- [TRAINING RESOURCES](#)

You are here: Home

## WHAT IS FIPI?

The BC government announced, in October 2012, the creation of the Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI) to improve fire code compliance in primary wood product manufacturing operations that have combustible wood dust-producing processes. The outcome will be enhanced health and safety for workers in British Columbia from the reduced risk of combustible dust fire, deflagration and explosion.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Results and Outcomes

# Inspection results

Initiative	Compliance rate %
Winter 2013-14	58
Spring 2014	84
Fall 2014	97

# Other Outcomes of the Strategy

- Vastly improved awareness across the industry
- Improved coordination and information sharing between agencies
- Re-enforcement of effective safety management approaches

Moving Forward

# Next Steps

- Completion of current initiatives in Sawmills, Pellets, and Non-wood sectors
- Implementation of Inquest Recommendations
- Integrate Combustible Dust focus into normal inspection protocols
- Continue to Improve
- Maintain Attention and Awareness



Questions