

# MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself  
"Could it happen here?"

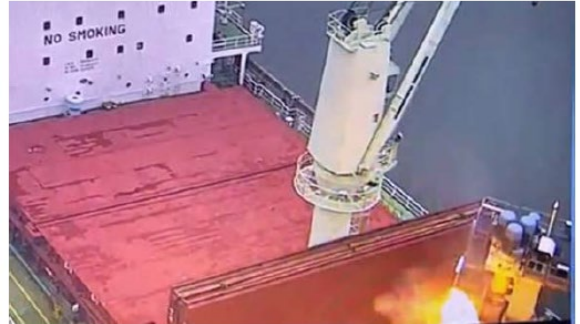
## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

### Explosion at Receiving Port (Wood Pellets)

Recently a receiving port for wood pellets had an explosion as a vessel was unloading. During the event, all safety equipment operated as expected with 7 explosion panels lifting and requiring replacement.

The explosion was most likely caused by tramp metal in the wood pellet shipment. Tramp metal was recovered in the cargo and discharge magnets. A charred 70mm bolt was removed from the Continuous Ship Unloader (CSU) after the explosion and is understood to have caused the incident.

There were no serious worker injuries, but one worker was shaken by the explosion.



## SUGGESTED ACTIONS

1. Operations should review their current wood pellet discharge or loading systems and processes to ensure that magnets are in place, maintained and operational to catch tramp metal at the last point of delivery to rail cars, transport trucks and vessels.
2. Receiving operations at the export ports should inspect their wood pellet receiving locations to ensure there are adequate metal detection and removal systems to catch tramp metal when wood pellets are delivered.
3. Both production facilities and exporting facilities should treat tramp metal captures as significant near misses that require a formal investigation. If possible, producers with tramp metal issues should be provided with timely feedback so that tramp metal issues can be addressed at the source.
4. Check that all ship holds are inspected and cleaned prior to loading wood pellets.

## MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY

The removal of tramp metal within the wood pellet supply chain is important to ensure the safety of workers both at the exporting and receiving ports.

The BCFSC and WPAC would like to thank the company that submitted the incident for this safety alert. BCFSC welcomes all incident and near-miss submissions from all sectors of the forest industry.



BCFSC welcomes all incident or near-miss submissions. To protect your privacy, we will review and remove all identifying information.

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