

# MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

**Ask Yourself**  
*“Could it happen here?”*

## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

### Fibre Pile Fatality

A tragic event recently occurred in north-central Alberta where wood fibre was being stored for use on oil & gas drilling sites. Smoke or steam was noticed coming from a fibre pile and a worker was sent to investigate. While they were on the pile, it collapsed, and the worker was engulfed and deceased

When fibre is stored in piles; over time self-heating and combustion can occur. The smouldering can continue for months and can eat out gaps in the fibre that can collapse with any weight. As snow cover on the pile melts in spring, wind can also expose the smouldering and open flames can result.



Download the Best Practice Fibre Pile Management Resource Document

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Workers and equipment must not climb up on fibre that is suspected of self-heating.
- Restrict public access to fibre storage areas.
- Use FLIR camera to identify hot spots early.
- Use trained fire brigade or local fire department to safely expose and extinguish fibre pile smoulders/fires.
- Use good pile building & management practices.



## MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY

Workers and equipment must not climb up on fibre piles that is suspected of self-heating.

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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