OVER ▶

COMBUSTIBLE DUST AWARENESS

BEING AWARE OF THE LOCATION OF COMBUSTIBLE DUST AND POTENTIAL IGNITION SOURCES IN YOUR WORKPLACE IS VERY IMPORTANT. THESE TWO FACTORS COMBINED CAN LEAD TO AN EXPLOSIVE REACTION IF THE RIGHT CONDITIONS ARE PRESENT. IF COMBUSTIBLE WOOD DUST COLLECTS IN A BUILDING, STRUCTURE, ON MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT, IT MUST BE SAFELY REMOVED BEFORE IT BUILDS UP.

- **POTENTIAL IGNITION SOURCES**
- **SAFE CLEANING METHODS**
- **WHEN TO REPORT DUST BUILD UP**

BC **Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

BC FOREST SAFETY COUNCIL | 420 ALBERT STREET, NANAIMO, BC V9R 2V7 | T: 1.877.741.1060 | **BCFORESTSAFE.ORG**

COMBUSTIBLE DUST AWARENESS

POTENTIAL IGNITION SOURCES

Examples of potential ignition sources may include:

- Production and maintenance equipment and machinery
- Hot work (eg. welding or grinding)
- Hot surfaces (eg. steam pipes)
- Friction (eg. seized/overheated bearing[s], hot motors, sparks)
- Heating equipment
- Electricity
- Smoking
- Static electricity (eg. ducting not grounded and bonded)

SAFE CLEANING METHODS

When cleaning dust, workers should consider cleaning methods that don't cause clouds of wood dust to occur and spread in the air.

Examples of safe cleaning methods include:

- Appropriate vacuum systems for dust collection
- Washing with water or wet rags
- Using soft bristle brooms on telescopic poles to clean high areas

Compressed air should only be used as a last resort and should only be used in localized or isolated areas. To avoid sending clouds of combustible wood dust into the air, do not use compressed air to combine dust piles or clean open areas.

WHEN TO REPORT DUST BUILD UP

If you see a buildup of wood dust in your workplace, report it to your supervisor or employer immediately. Just a handful of fine wood dust can be enough to fuel an explosion. It only takes about 3 mm (1/8 in.) of built-up dust, covering as little as 5% of the surface in a contained or enclosed area to cause an explosion.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to access all BCFSC Crew Talks and to subscribe.