

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

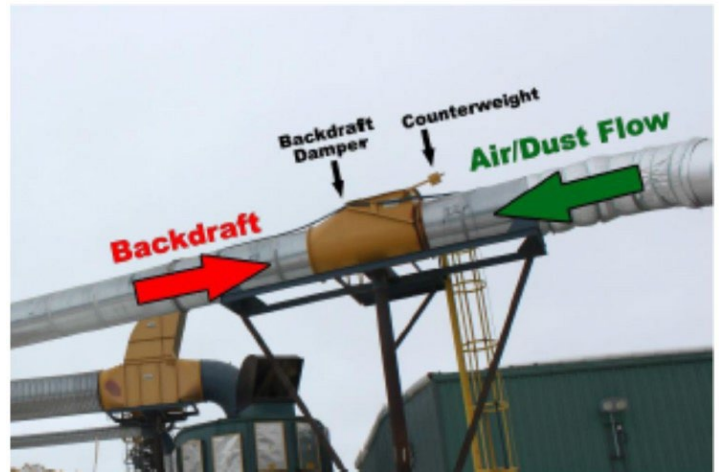
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

The dust extraction system for the planer was turned off during a power reset which resulted in a backdraft of fine dust into the planer.

Upon investigation, it was identified that the backdraft damper on the dust extraction system failed to close when the blower was shut down.

The backdraft damper (pictured) is designed to automatically close when positive air flow has stopped.

During a closer inspection, it appeared that the backdraft damper may have been frozen in the open position. Due to the bearings being stiff, the counterweight may have been out of position.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Update monthly preventative maintenance to include lubricating the backdraft damper swivel bearings.
- Before start-up, confirm the gate is fully operational after prolonged weekends and during cold weather.
- Investigate the feasibility of automatic sensors that alarm if the damper fails.
- Ensure the counterweight on the damper is properly calibrated to ensure correct operation.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Develop a start-up inspection of the ventilation equipment to confirm that all safety systems are operating.

