

# MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself  
“Could it happen here?”

## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

### High Carbon Monoxide Readings in Sawmill

Sawmill workers reported an abnormal melting / burning smell in the sawmill to the weekend maintenance supervisor.

The supervisor retrieved a Ventis MX4 detector used for confined space entries and began monitoring the sawmill. The detector identified some high CO readings in a few areas.

The supervisor evacuated personnel from the building and contacted the maintenance superintendent. He then opened the doors and shut down the Make Up Air Unit (MUA) which reduced the CO levels.

The MUA was restarted and after running for less than 15 minutes, a combustion issue was detected. Incomplete combustion was taking place in the lower MUA unit. This may have caused flue gases to exit the flue stack and be drawn into the mill causing the increase in CO levels in the sawmill.

The MUA was immediately shut down and a service contractor replaced a combustion component as well as the intake filters.

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Review flue exhaust location and move to a higher location if possible.
- Review the current maintenance schedule for the MUA to ensure preventative maintenance is being regularly performed.
- Research CO detection for buildings.



## MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Review the current maintenance schedule for the MUA to ensure preventative maintenance is being regularly performed.

