

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Fire - Debarker Baghouse

An explosion and fire occurred in the sawmill's debarker baghouse during normal operations due to a seized debarker feedroll packed with cedar bark.

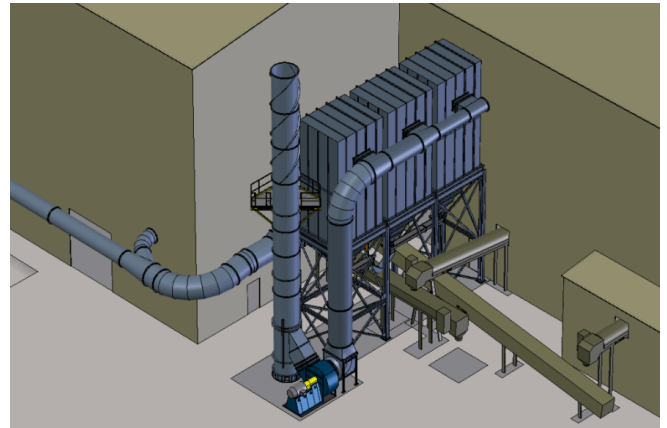
This led to a friction fire that generated sparks, which entered the dust collection system.

Although the system had a spark detection mechanism, two critical failures allowed the sparks to pass through. The first sensor triggered a deluge response that did not activate, and the second sensor initiated an abort gate response that also failed. As a result, sparks reached the baghouse, causing two explosion panels to blow out and activate the internal fire suppression system.

Fortunately, there were no injuries reported.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Implement a preventative maintenance (PM) process for debarker feedrolls after cedar runs.
- Schedule regular inspections of safety components in dust collection systems.
- Maintain spark detection systems per manufacturer's guidelines and arrange for third-party inspections.
- Include winterization planning for spark detection deluge systems to prevent freezing.
- Connect the spark detection system to the PLC for remote alerts on sparks or faults.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Establish a preventative maintenance process for debarker feedrolls, ensuring regular inspections of safety elements, proper maintenance of spark detection systems, winterization plans to prevent freezing.

