



Reprint CANADIAN BIOMASS MAGAZINE Article, Published July 14, 2025

*Canadian Biomass Magazine*, featured the following article on the insights from the recent combustible dust specialist training held in June in Prince George.



## Insights from the Combustible Dust Specialist Training Session

By Tammy Carruthers, BCFSC SAFE Companies, MAG and WPAC Administrator

Reflections from the June 3 to 5, 2025 BCFSC CD Specialist Training session in Prince George

The Combustible Dust Training Institute workshop in Prince George, B.C. was an enlightening experience for the attendees, who are involved in housekeeping and maintenance, engineering controls, and safety management at their work locations. The training session underscored the importance of practical applications and strategic initiatives for controlling combustible dust hazards in the workplace. The training included two days of classroom training and a practical application of learnings at the Lakeland sawmill, part of Sinclair Forest Products.

### Housekeeping and maintenance

The training highlighted the critical role of housekeeping programs in managing dust accumulations and preventing hazardous conditions. Regular cleaning routines, both scheduled and unscheduled, must address all surfaces where dust can accumulate, including overhead beams, joists, ducts, and equipment tops. The reference to the [NFPA 499 guidelines](#) and the NFPA 660 standard provided clarity on effective housekeeping frequencies across various industries for both area electrical classification and fire and deflagration hazards.

### Engineering controls

Engineering controls emerged as vital components in protecting against combustible dust hazards. The importance of building design compliance with fire prevention codes and limiting accumulation locations was emphasized. Equipment design should include dust containment and explosion protection systems, while ignition source control—encompassing temperature management, mechanical hazards, electrical hazards, and electrostatic discharges—was noted as fundamental for incident prevention.

### Case studies

The session included compelling case studies on dust explosions, such as the plywood plant explosion in Corrigan, Texas. These real-world examples illustrated the potential pitfalls in management, prevention, and protection systems. The discussions provided valuable lessons on the necessity for emergency response processes, spark detection, suppression systems, and safe exclusion zones.

### Conclusion

The workshop offered a comprehensive overview of practical applications and strategies for managing combustible dust hazards. Key takeaways included understanding building space

evaluations, conducting Dust Hazard Analyses (DHAs), and the implementation of robust management systems and engineering controls. Continuous learning and adaptation were emphasized to ensure the safety of workers, facilities, and the environment.

The attendees expressed their gratitude to the expert instructors, Michelle Murphy, M.S., CCPSC Process Safety Expert and Lead Program Instructor from Mica, and Chris Cloney, Ph.D., P.Eng., Managing Director and Lead Researcher at Dust Safety Science, for their invaluable insights and contributions to the field of combustible dust safety.

The training session was not just an educational experience but a call-to-action for all participants to enhance their safety practices and protect their workplaces from combustible dust hazards.

Thanks to the BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) for organizing the event and subsidizing 50 per cent of the cost for sawmill industry participants.

If you are interested in exploring additional training options, please email [chris@dustsafetyscience.com](mailto:chris@dustsafetyscience.com). 🌱

## WorkSafeBC Virtual Public Hearing - September 24, 2025

WorkSafeBC is holding a virtual public hearing on proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.


The virtual public hearing will be livestreamed on **September 24, 2025**, in two sessions. The first will take place from **11am to 1pm** and the second from **3pm to 5pm**.

Details on how to view or participate in the virtual public hearing will be posted on [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com) and communicated by enews closer to the hearing date.

The proposed amendments can be accessed, along with explanatory notes, using the links below:

- [Part 6, Substance Specific Requirements — Combustible Dusts](#)
- [Parts 8 and 31, Standards Updates \(PPE Safety Headgear\)](#)


Public hearings provide stakeholders an opportunity to comment on proposed regulatory amendments. WorkSafeBC welcomes feedback on these amendments either by written submission or by participation in the virtual public hearing. Written submissions will be accepted until **4:30pm on Friday, September 26, 2025**.

Add [this link](#) to your favourites and see the full list of [Current Public Hearings and Consultations from WorkSafeBC](#) updated regularly on the WorkSafeBC website. 

## MAG Safety Innovation Call

MAG recognizes the vital importance of safety innovations in industry. Sharing these advancements is essential for creating a safe workplace.

BCFSC wants to [share manufacturing safety innovations](#) through industry eblasts, social media and on BCFSC's website to encourage safety at work.

Submit your safety innovation idea today by emailing Bill Laturnus at [blaturnus@bcforestsafesafe.org](mailto:blaturnus@bcforestsafesafe.org). 

## MAG's New Appointed Chair for 2026-2029

In wood products manufacturing, the Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) plays a key role in supporting continuous improvement in safety performance in sawmills across BC. MAG is dedicated to striving for workplaces that are free from injuries, incidents and near misses.

As we approach the end of 2025, MAG will see a leadership transition. Scott Wynn, who has served as Chair from 2022 to 2025, will be stepping down, and Grant Fast will assume the role beginning in 2026.

### Outgoing MAG Chair: Scott Wynn (2022-2025)

Scott has skillfully led the committee's efforts over the past three years. Under his leadership, MAG has focused on several key initiatives, including:

- Development of leadership training
- Enhancing hazard identification practices
- Realigning quarterly safety statistics definitions
- Advancing HSA foundational activities (e.g., combustible dust)
- Expanding the MAG Share/Build Resources program

*Serving as Chairperson of the Manufacturing Advisory Group*

*(MAG) for the past three years has been a privilege and professional highlight. Together, we strategically reintroduced in-person collaboration and best practice sharing through on-site meetings and launched pre-meeting professional development sessions that have enriched our collective expertise. What stands out most to me is our shared commitment to strengthening frontline supervisor training, providing a solid foundation for safe and effective leadership. Our collective efforts have made a lasting impact, and I believe the team takes pride in what we've achieved. I have no doubt that Grant Fast's leadership will inject new energy and vision, propelling the team to even greater success. I look forward to seeing MAG continue to thrive under his leadership.*

**— Scott Wynn, Outgoing MAG Chairperson, Safety Specialist BC Operations – Tolko Industries.**

*"We would like to extend our appreciation for Scott's leadership as Chair and his efforts in fostering a culture of continuous improvement in safety performance in the sawmill industry. MAG continues to drive impactful changes, mirroring our commitment and goal that 'Every Worker Goes Home Safe Every Day.'"*

**— Rob Moonen, BCFSC CEO**

### Incoming MAG Chair: Grant

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## Fast (2026–2029)

Business Improvement Manager,  
Sinclar Group Forest Products Ltd.

We are pleased to welcome Grant Fast as the incoming Chair of MAG. We look forward to his leadership and continued collaboration in advancing safety performance across the industry.

Grant brings over two decades of experience in forestry operations, information technology and continuous improvement to his new role as MAG's new Chair.

Originally from Abbotsford, BC, Grant relocated to Prince George in 1996 with his wife to begin a new chapter, transitioning from municipal government to the forestry sector by joining the IT department at Northwood Pulp & Timber (Canfor). In 2011, he joined Sinclar and has since held a range of leadership roles spanning Technology, Plant Management, Strategic Risk, Process Improvement and Corporate Safety.

Grant's passion for safety began early, growing up on farms and in high-risk environments where safety was often overlooked. Personal experiences with workplace accidents affecting friends and family made safety a lifelong priority. Entering the forest industry, he was impressed by the sector's commitment to health and safety and joined a Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee early in his career.

His leadership journey took a pivotal turn during his time as Plant Manager at a Sinclar site, where he saw firsthand how safety thrives when every employee is engaged. This experience led to his current role as Corporate Safety Program Leader, where he provides structure and consistency across Sinclar's safety initiatives.

As Business Improvement Manager, Grant continues to lead strategic initiatives focused on operational excellence, safety performance, and



data-driven decision-making.

Now, as Chair of the MAG Group, Grant is eager to give back, through learning, mentorship and collaboration. He values the peer-to-peer connections and the exchange of ideas that strengthen safety culture across the industry.

His key priorities for MAG include:

- Enhancing the Wood Manufacturing Supervisor Training Program to emphasize communication, accountability, and continuous improvement—making it accessible to all levels of leadership.
- Analyzing Serious Incident and Fatal Potential (SIFp) data to develop proactive strategies, refine incident categorization, and link job roles to injury types for targeted interventions.
- Continuing MAG's focus on psychological safety and employee wellbeing—fostering a culture of trust where employees feel empowered to speak up.

Grant holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Athabasca University and a Computer Information Systems Diploma from the University of the Fraser Valley. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family and exploring BC's lakes and mountains. 🌲

## Consider our Safety Resources for Your Digital Displays

Does your workplace use digital screens to share company information and safety messages with employees?

If so, BCFSC offers ready-to-use slide graphics that accompany the weekly Crew Talk and Manufacturing Safety Alerts. Simply click on the link in our BCFSC crew talk or manufacturing safety alert emails to download the 16x9 graphic slide and add it to your digital display and help reinforce our key safety messages.



You can also find the slides on [MAG webpage](#) under the **Crew Talks** and **MAG Safety Alerts**.

And if you haven't done so already, subscribe to receive our weekly Manufacturing Safety Alert and Crew Talks sent directly to your inbox and stay informed on key safety topics that could help keep your workers safe.

[Subscribe to Weekly BCFSC Crew Talks and Manufacturing Safety Alerts](#)

We're always on the lookout for new ideas! If you have a topic suggestion for a Crew Talk or a Safety Alert to share, please reach out to **Bill Laturnus** at [Bill.Laturnus@bcforestsafte.org](mailto:Bill.Laturnus@bcforestsafte.org). 🌲