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# COMBUSTIBLE DUST CLEANUP WITH BLOWDOWN: DUST RELOCATION PLAN

**In manufacturing environments, combustible dust can build up on equipment, rafters, floors and production surfaces. If that dust becomes airborne, it can create a serious fire or explosion hazard.**

**It is essential to maintain good housekeeping. Using compressed air for blowdown to clear dust creates major challenges because it can instantly produce a dense dust cloud, disturb hidden layers, spread contamination across machinery and product lines and introduce static or spark hazards that could trigger an explosion.**

## SAFE COMBUSTIBLE DUST CLEANUP TIPS:

- CHALLENGES WITH BLOWDOWN
- BLOWDOWN REQUIREMENTS

BC **Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

# COMBUSTIBLE DUST CLEANUP WITH BLOWDOWN: DUST RELOCATION PLAN

**Keep dust out of the air. Airborne dust is what explodes!**

## CHALLENGES WITH BLOWDOWN:

- Creates a significant risk of explosion.
- Does not actually remove dust.
- Often redistributes dust to even more dangerous areas.
- We call this **THE DUST RELOCATION PLAN** because the dust simply moves to harder to reach spots or up into the rafters where it becomes very difficult to clean.

## BLOWDOWN REQUIREMENTS:

- Before using compressed air, brushing, sweeping or vacuuming are the preferred ways to safely clean up wood dust.
- Keep dust levels below your company's threshold accumulation limits.
- Limit compressed air discharge pressure to minimize dust clouds.
- All equipment must be rated appropriately for dust based on the area's hazard classification.
- All ignition sources must be controlled, shut down, removed and checked for temperature.
- No hot work can take place near or within the wood dust blowdown area.
- Remove residual dust to below threshold limits before starting the mill back up.
- Ensure all fire protection equipment is in service.

## REMEMBER:

**Report dust accumulation early so it can be cleaned before it becomes hazardous.**

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