



Combustible Dust Training Institute (CDTI) Certified Graduate: Scott Wynn Environmental Health and Safety Manager, Landsong Heritage Consulting Ltd.

Please join us in congratulating Scott Wynn on achieving his Certified Dust Safety Professional (CDSP) designation through the Combustible Dust Training Institute. This certification recognizes Scott's extensive knowledge and understanding of combustible dust hazards, risk management principles, hazard identification, assessment and mitigation strategies. Earning the CDSP designation requires completing

a rigorous training program and successfully passing a comprehensive qualifying examination.

Scott pursued this certification while serving as a Safety Specialist for Tolko Industries Ltd. (BC Operations) to support the company's combustible dust compliance efforts. Having recently moved on from Tolko, he has joined Landsong Heritage Consulting

Ltd. as Environmental Health and Safety Manager. In this new role, he looks forward to leveraging this specialized expertise to support and protect the wider industry.

Congratulations, Scott, on this well-deserved achievement and thank you for your continued dedication to manufacturing safety excellence. 🌟



Dust Safety Science Institute Certified DHA Leader (CDHA) Graduate: Tim Boyes, Environmental, Health & Safety Manager – Sinclair Lumber Operations – Apollo Forest Products, Nechako Lumber Co./ Premium Pellet, and Lakeland Mills

Congratulations to Tim Boyes on successfully achieving his Certified DHA Leader (CDHA) certification through the Dust Safety Science Institute.

He earned the Certified DHA Leader (CDHA) designation through the Dust Safety Science Institute, further strengthening his expertise in combustible dust hazard management and prevention.

The CDHA program is designed for professionals who lead combustible dust safety initiatives within their organizations. Through a combination of online coursework and live

instruction, participants gain the knowledge and practical tools needed to conduct Dust Hazard Analyses (DHAs), facilitate effective Combustion Risk Assessments (CRAs) and implement practical, actionable safety measures to support compliance with NFPA 652 and NFPA 660 requirements.

In his role overseeing environmental, health and safety programs across multiple lumber and pellet operations, Tim applies this expertise to help strengthen safety practices and promote risk reduction throughout the workplace. As a member of the Manufacturing Advisory Group

(MAG), he also contributes to broader industry efforts to support advancing safety performance in wood products manufacturing.

Earning the CDHA designation is a significant accomplishment, and we thank Tim for his ongoing commitment to making workplaces safer. 🌟

MAG Members Participate in WorkSafeBC Employer Health & Safety Planning Tool Kit Workshop and Arbios Biotech Facility Tour in Prince George - Biomass to Bio-Oil facility

MAG members recently participated in a workshop led by Kim Stubbs and Jason McConnel from WorkSafeBC, that focussed on the Employer Health & Safety Planning Tool Kit. Through a series of interactive exercises, Kim and Jason walked the group through this resource that helps employers analyze their historical injury and claims data, compare their performance with similar companies, identify trends and develop targeted health and safety initiatives.

It also allows employers to see how improvements to health and safety programs and return-to-work practices can influence claim costs and understand how the experience rating is used to calculate WorkSafeBC premiums.

The tool kit is particularly valuable for employers with 50 or more employees who experience three or more time-loss claims each year.

The health and safety performance reports that are available through the tool kit include:

Employer Report

The Employer Report uses graphs and charts to provide a high-level snapshot of your organization's health and safety performance. The report can be printed and shared with operational and management teams to support discussions about injury prevention, worker protection, claim costs and WorkSafeBC insurance premiums.

Occupational Health & Safety Information Summary

This report summarizes workplace prevention activities, including inspections. It highlights the most common orders issued and identifies where they are occurring within the

organization, helping employers focus their prevention efforts where they are needed most.

MAG extends its sincere thanks to Kim and Jason for sharing their knowledge and expertise. Their guidance provided members with practical tools and insights that can help strengthen workplace safety and reduce injuries.

If your organization is interested in a similar workshop, contact the WorkSafeBC Prevention and Services Department to set it up. 📞



MAG Members Explores Innovation at Arbios Hydrothermal Liquefaction Facility

During the MAG Q2 meeting, members had the opportunity to tour Arbios - Chuntoh Ghuna (pronounced Chan-toh Hannah), the world's largest hydrothermal liquefaction facility.

The tour offered a firsthand look at how innovative technology is transforming wood residue biomass into renewable bio-oil at a commercial scale. The facility is designed to convert 25,000 ODT (dry tonnes) of wood residue biomass into 50,000 barrels of bio-oil annually, setting a new benchmark in advanced biofuel production.

As the members moved through the facility, they learned about its modular design and how it is a blueprint for for similar projects around the world. The tour also highlighted the facility's role in advancing drop-in renewable biofuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the transition to cleaner energy sources. Beyond the technology, members could see how the



project is contributing to the local economy by creating jobs and building long-term partnerships with Indigenous communities.

MAG extends our sincere appreciation to Karin Godwin, EHS Manager and the Arbios team for hosting the tour and sharing valuable insight into this innovative technology and its future potential. 🌱

Combustible Dust Workshops Help Industry Prepare for 2027 Regulatory Changes

Bill Laturnus, BCFSC's Senior Safety Advisor for Manufacturing Safety, facilitated five combustible dust workshops between July 17 and July 28 at Western Forest Products, West Fraser, Canfor and Gorman Group's Similkameen Forest Products operation.

The workshops provided participants with a practical overview of combustible dust hazards and a closer look at the new regulatory requirements that will come into effect on January 4, 2027. Topics included enhanced expectations for Joint Occupational Health and

Safety Committee (JOHSC) involvement in combustion risk discussions, updates to combustible dust management processes and new training requirements.

One highlight was the strong participation from the Gorman Group, who sent safety resource team members from all five of its sites to the workshop. The team worked together over the day and a half session to develop a combustion risk assessment form and supporting processes to help meet the upcoming regulatory requirements.



Pictured from left: Chris Fowler-Canoe Forest Products; Melika Glover-Oroville Reman & Reload; Garrett Brisbane-Gorman Bros. Lumber West Kelowna; Jay Pillappan - Similkameen Forest Products.; and David Ash, Downie Timber/Selkirk Cedar.

The workshops also created valuable opportunities for collaboration across the Gorman Group sites. Participants shared the work that is already underway at their operations, discussed practical ways to prepare for the new regulations and identified opportunities to support one another as they strengthen their combustible dust program. 🌱

Combustible Dust Cleanup: Why Using Compressed Air is Risky

In sawmill operations, combustible dust can accumulate on equipment, rafters, floors, and production surfaces. If the dust becomes airborne, it can create a serious fire or explosion hazard. Good housekeeping is essential, but some cleaning methods can unintentionally increase risk. One of the most common examples is using compressed air to blow down and clear dust.

There are many challenges and risks with using compressed air for blowdown. It doesn't actually remove dust; instead, it instantly generates a dense dust cloud creating a significant explosion risk. The dust gets redistributed, shifting from one place to another, spreading across machinery, product lines, and other sensitive areas. It can be forced into hidden spaces or up into rafters, making future cleanup more difficult. When hazards like static discharge or sparks combine with airborne dust, conditions for an explosion can develop quickly.

There are preferred cleanup methods that capture dust instead of dispersing it. Whenever possible:

- Vacuum using equipment rated for your site's dust hazard classification.
- Brush and/or sweep which may be suitable for many areas when done carefully.
- Maintain routine housekeeping to help keep buildup below your site's threshold limits to prevent hazardous accumulations.

Some worksites permit compressed-air blowdown. If it is allowed at your site, treat it as a controlled, high-risk activity with strict safeguards:

- Pressure limit — Keep discharge pressure at or below 30 psi (207 kPa).
- Rated equipment — Tools and equipment must be rated appropriately for dust based on the area's hazard classification.
- Ignition control — Shut down, remove, and verify all ignition



sources, including hot surfaces; check for elevated temperatures in the area.

- No hot work — Never perform hot work in or near the blowdown zone.
- Post clean removal — Ensure dust is removed to safe levels before restarting operations.
- Fire protection — Confirm fire suppression systems are active before, during, and after the task.

Combustible dust hazards are manageable when dust is prevented from becoming airborne and ignition sources are tightly controlled. Report dust accumulation early so it can be cleaned up before it becomes dangerous, and always prioritize cleanup methods that remove dust, not move it around. 🌱

Updated Combustible Dust Regulations are Coming

The Manufacturing Advisory Group (MAG) is continuing to track combustible dust risks and the upcoming WorkSafeBC regulatory requirements coming into effect on January 4, 2027. To help industry prepare, MAG has developed a new combustible dust regulation workshop designed to clarify what's changing and what employers should be prepared for.

The workshop provides a high level overview of combustible dust hazards, an in-depth review of the new regulations, and an explanation of the expanded responsibilities for qualified person consultation.

Participants will examine key changes, including Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees (JOHSC) expectations relating to combustion risks, updates to combustible dust management processes, and new training requirements.

If you would like an in-person workshop at your site, contact Bill Laturnus, Senior Safety Advisor for Manufacturing, blaturnus@bcforestsafe.org. 

Kevin Storie at Drax Smithers: Latest WPAC Safety Hero

The Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) is proud to recognize Operational Supervisor Kevin Storie of Drax Smithers as our latest Safety Hero for his consistent, hands-on commitment to keeping people safe and operations running responsibly.

Kevin leads by example every day, leveraging his operational experience to lead his team to safe outcomes. He is involved in continuous improvement across the site, constantly challenging the team to think critically about how to make it even safer.

“Kevin’s attention to detail and willingness to consider all facts openly make him a great asset to the Smithers plant team,” says Joel Martens, Plant Manager, who nominated Kevin.

Read more on the [WPAC website](#). 

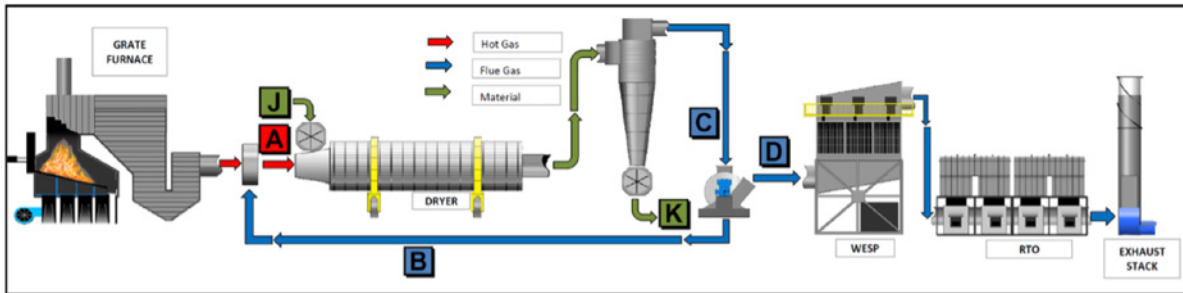
Continuing Progress: WPAC Safety Committee Process Safety Implementation (PSM)

PROCESS SAFETY MANAGEMENT ELEMENTS			
PROCESS SAFETY LEADERSHIP	UNDERSTANDING HAZARDS AND RISKS	RISK MANAGEMENT	REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT
Accountability	Information and documentation	Training and competency	Investigation
Regulations, codes and standards	Project review and design procedures	Management of change	Audit program
Process safety culture	Risk assessment and risk reduction	Integrity management	Enhancement of process safety knowledge
Conduct of operations and operational discipline	Human factors	Emergency management	Key performance indicators

Process Safety Management (PSM) continues to be a key priority for the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) as the industry works to enhance safety performance and operational resilience. In 2026, WPAC’s Safety Committee and PSM Working Group are advancing implementation efforts through practical initiatives that support long-term safety maturity, including the development of plant-level process flow diagrams, implementation of Management of Change (MOC) systems and reviews of piping and instrumentation documentation. These efforts are designed to strengthen hazard awareness, improve risk management, and provide facilities with clear roadmaps for future safety improvements.

[Read the full details on WPAC’s 2026 PSM priorities and progress.](#) 

Rotary Drum Dryer Safety: Habits That Prevent Fires Before They Start



Rotary drum dryers are a vital part of pellet plant operations, but they can also present significant fire and explosion risks if not properly managed.

In a recent report, the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) highlights seven key safety habits that help prevent incidents before they occur, including treating startup, shutdown, and power interruptions as high-risk activities,

maintaining reliable monitoring systems, managing fuel and fibre quality and implementing effective training and emergency response procedures. Developed by WPAC's Rotary Drum Dryer Working Group, the report draws on industry experience and incident reviews to provide practical guidance for safer, more resilient operations.

[Visit the WPAC website to learn more and access the full report.](#) 📄

Advancing Safety in Biomass Storage: Key Insights from the Safe Wood Pellet Storage Workshop in Japan

At the *Safe Wood Pellet Storage: Preventing, Detecting, and Managing Self-Heating Incidents* workshop held in Tokyo, Japan, more than 30 industry experts, producers, utilities, and safety professionals gathered to share knowledge on preventing, detecting, and responding to self-heating events that can lead to fires or explosions. Organized by the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) with industry partners,

the workshop featured real-world case studies, emerging monitoring technologies and best practices for storage design, risk management, and incident response.

[Get more information](#) on the key takeaways and access the workshop presentations 📄

Building a Safer Wood Pellet Industry: Key Takeaways from the 2026 WPAC Safety Summit

The 2026 Wood Pellet and Bioenergy Safety Summit brought together industry leaders, safety professionals and regulators in Prince George to share knowledge and strengthen safety practices across the wood pellet and bioenergy sector. Hosted by the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC) in partnership with the BC Forest Safety Council and WorkSafeBC, the event explored a broad range of topics, including rotary drum dryer safety, process safety management (PSM), ergonomic injury prevention and mental health in the workplace.

A key theme of the summit was that industry safety is strengthened through collaboration, continuous learning, and the sharing of best practices among organizations.

[Click here](#) to read the summit overview and access available summit presentations. 📄