Combustible Dust Hazards: WorkSafeBC’s Journey ...a cautionary tale

An overview of WorkSafeBC’s activities and learnings around combustible wood dust hazards in sawmills and other wood products manufacturing facilities.

Dale Walker
March 2015
WorkSafeBC ~ background

• WorkSafeBC is an independent agency governed by a Board of Directors appointed by government.

• WorkSafeBC is one of the few jurisdictions in Canada that is responsible for:

  1. The creation and enforcement of its own OH&S Regulations and enforceable policies.
  2. Injured worker wage loss compensation; medical treatment, rehabilitation, and return to work.
  3. Assessments and collection of insurance premiums.
  4. OH&S and RTW education, consultation, resources, and industry outreach.
  5. Funding and oversight of Health & Safety Associations, employer incentive programs, and injury reduction initiatives.
OH&S Education, Consultation, Resources, and Industry Outreach

• A cornerstone of WorkSafeBC’s mandate is to promote the prevention of workplace injuries and disease.
• Education and consultation help to move employers and workers towards compliance.
• Prevention Services and Industry and Labour Services (ILS) work together to promote worker safety and reduce workplace injuries.
• Extending our reach – partner with and fund 13 Health & Safety Associations.
2012: Two Sawmill Explosions
2 workers killed
20 workers injured
Lakeland Mills Ltd
(Prince George, BC – April 23, 2012)

2 workers killed
22 workers injured
Sawmill Explosions 2012

• Both sawmill explosions in 2012 were unprecedented in the history of worker safety in British Columbia.

• WorkSafeBC’s response to these incidents and its ongoing work with wood products manufacturing employers in reviewing employer practices around managing combustible wood dust is similarly without precedent in our organization’s history.
Incident Investigations
Incident Investigations

BABINE FOREST PRODUCTS LTD, BURNS LAKE, BC

- Investigators on site within hours
- WorkSafeBC team = 30+ WorkSafeBC officers, legal officers, engineers, investigation assistants, and incident response specialists
- Investigators on site for 10 weeks
- Site access delayed 19 days due to on-site hazards
- 13,632 photographs taken, 705+ exhibits logged, 97+ interviews conducted
Incident Investigations (cont)

LAKELAND MILLS LTD, PRINCE GEORGE, BC:

- Investigators on site within hours
- WorkSafeBC team: Same as it was for Babine Forest Products
- Investigators on-site for five weeks
- 7,452 photographs taken; 257+ exhibits logged; 81+ interviews conducted
In addition to WorkSafeBC’s own internal experts, we brought in the external expertise of:

- Fire investigators
- Combustible dust experts and laboratories in Canada (UBC, Dalhousie) and the U.S. (Illinois)
- Metallurgical and mechanical lab analysis
- Consulting engineers
Guideline and Directive Order Re: Combustible Wood Dusts

• April 2012: WorkSafeBC issued and delivered a Directive Order to all BC sawmill employers.

• The Directive Order required all sawmills to immediately conduct a risk assessment for wood dust and implement a wood dust control program.
Incident Investigations (cont)

By May 2012, it was determined that:

a) *both* explosion sites had concentrations of combustible dust in similar types of confined spaces

b) *both* sites had similar areas of ignition in or near those confined spaces

By August 15, 2012:

• Lab results for green wood revealed explosion risk for any dust less than 5% humidity and a particle size of less than 75 µm (micrometers)
Working with Sawmill Employers & Organized Labour
Sawmill Employers + Organized Labour = Wood Dust in Sawmills
Compilation of Industry Best Practices

May 4, 2012
The “CEO Task Force”

- May 2012 - CEO Task Force created “Combustible Dust Hazards; Awareness and Safeguarding.”
- Excellent example of an industry-led response to the hazard of combustible dust.

Combustible Dust Hazards: Awareness & Safeguarding

Forest Industry Task Force on Mill Safety
May 2012
The sawmills’ CEO Task Force funded its own combustible wood dust analysis in early 2013.

The primary finding was that wet/dry dust was not the issue. Rather, dust *particle size* was the primary determinant of risk.
CEO Task Force

- June 2013 – the CEO Task Force created a Wood Dust Mitigation and Control Audit.

- While this audit was not formally “approved” by WorkSafeBC, it was made available to all sawmill employers and can be found in its entirety on the sawmills page of the WorkSafeBC website.
Incident Investigations – Results and Aftermath...
Incident Investigations (cont)

- **Q3/2013**: Following the conclusion of investigations into Burns Lake and Lakeland explosions, WorkSafeBC turned over documents and findings to the Crown Prosecutor.

- Recommendation: charges be approved against both employers under the WCB Act.

- **Q1/Q2 of 2014**: Crown declined to approve any charges. **Why?**
  - Strength of the *due diligence* defence
  - Some evidence likely not admissible in court because the evidence was collected without a warrant and without informing witnesses of their Charter rights.
Incident Investigations (cont)

Why investigations without warrants/charter warnings?

- Warrantless seizure facilitates prompt determination of the cause of a workplace incident to prevent future occurrences.
- Cause determination and resultant prevention activities are core functions for WorkSafeBC

Current law:

- Where WorkSafeBC moves from an investigation for cause to an investigation for prosecution:
  - WorkSafeBC cannot use its "cause and prevention" tools; and
  - Warrants are required to seize evidence, and Charter rights must be explained where required.
WorkSafeBC’s New Investigation Model

- Following the Crown’s decision, WorkSafeBC’s Fatal and Serious Injuries department (FSI) was split into two completely separate units.

- New protocols now ensure that:
  a) the two units cannot access each other's work;
  b) no access to or sharing of electronic files; and
  c) the “ethical wall” is high enough to satisfy the Crown and the courts that the two units are completely independent.
WorkSafeBC’s New Investigation Model (cont)

How does new two team process work?

- At first hint of potential prosecution - first team “downs tools”, secures all files, and notifies senior lawyer (Gatekeeper) with authority over both FSI teams.
- If appropriate, the investigation is assigned to second team
- Investigation starts over again – with Warrants and Charter rights.
- No communication between two teams.
- No access to evidence obtained without warrant or Charter warning.
- Prosecution takes priority over cause investigation.
Combustible Wood Dust: Education and Resources for Industry
Information and Safety Resources

• WorkSafeBC provided *information and safety resources* to sawmill employers re: combustible dust clean-up and mitigation.

• A webpage was created to compile and make available all documents and safety information related to combustible dust in sawmills.
What is combustible wood dust?

Most wood dust is combustible, which means it can easily catch fire and burn. If fine wood dust particles catch fire when suspended in air, the fire can spread rapidly. Under some conditions, this may result in an explosion.

Combustible wood dust explosions

A combustible wood dust explosion is the very rapid burning of dust suspended in air. Heat and pressure build up very quickly. An explosion can occur when the five conditions of the “dust explosion pentagon” are present.

A handful of fine wood dust can be enough to fuel an explosion. All it takes is about 3 mm (1/8 in.) of built-up dust, covering as little as five percent of the surface in an enclosed or contained area.

Secondary explosions

The first or primary explosion disturbs built-up combustible wood dust on surrounding surfaces. Then this dust ignites in a secondary explosion. Secondary explosions are often more powerful than primary explosions. This is because of the increased amount of combustible wood dust. An arc flash is an example of a small explosion that could trigger a larger secondary explosion.

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Dust explosion pentagon

1. Fuel to burn combustible wood dust
2. Dispersion — high concentration of fine airborne combustible wood dust
3. Oxygen to sustain the fire — air
4. Dispersion
5. Confinement — within an enclosure or structure

Ignition — source of heat (e.g., spark, hot surfaces including overheated bearings and other moving parts, static electricity)

Primary explosion

Secondary explosion

Reproduced from the OSHA Fact Sheet, Hazard Alert: Combustible Dust Explosions, U.S. Department of Labor.
लंगड़ी की बलमीना पुड़ ती है?

लंगड़ी की बलमीना पुड़ का बारह, तनिक दिशा में इस पुड़ का प्रयोग फिरोज़ों करता है। लंगड़ी एक धातु लालकरी से बनी हुई है। इस पुड़ का उपयोग लंगड़ी के लिए होता है।

पुड़ के यमजेरे के प्रश्नों

- पुड़ की स्थितियों का समाप्त करने के लिए व्यापक उपयोग किया जाता है।
- पुड़ के अंतर्गत लंगड़ी की ठंड करने के लिए भी उपयोग किया जाता है।
- पुड़ के यमजेरे के प्रश्नों को जवाब देने के लिए भी उपयोग किया जाता है।

पुड़ का यमजेरे के प्रश्नों

1. पुड़ के यमजेरे के प्रश्नों के संबंध में रास्ते के समाप्त करने के लिए व्यापक उपयोग किया जाता है।
2. पुड़ के अंतर्गत लंगड़ी की ठंड करने के लिए भी उपयोग किया जाता है।
3. पुड़ के यमजेरे के प्रश्नों को जवाब देने के लिए भी उपयोग किया जाता है।

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The Explosion Pentagon

1. **Fuel:**
2. **Dispersion**
3. **Oxygen**
4. **Confinement**
5. **Heat** – ignition source

- Worker safety threatened through fire, secondary explosions, flying debris, and building collapse.
- Eliminating any one of these five elements mitigates the risk of a combustible dust explosion.
- Four elements can be controlled through appropriate risk assessments and safe/effective dust capture and removal methods.

Toolbox Meeting Guide

Combustible wood dust: awareness and controls

Be aware of the potential for a combustible wood dust fire or explosion in your workplace. If combustible wood dust collects in a building or structure or on machinery or equipment, it must be safely removed before built-up dust could cause a fire or explosion.

Dust explosion pentagon

1. Fuel to burn — combustible wood dust
2. Dispersion — high concentration of fine airborne combustible wood dust
3. Oxygen to sustain the fire — air
4. Ignition — source of heat (e.g., spark, hot surfaces including overheated bearings and other moving parts, static electricity)
5. Confinement — within an enclosure or structure

If a high concentration of wood dust becomes airborne and contacts an ignition source in a contained area, an explosion will likely occur.

WorkSafeBC Prevention Information Line: 604.276.3100 or toll-free 1.888.621.SAFE (7233)

TG 14-02
Tool Box Meeting Guide

Combustible dust and your right to refuse unsafe work

- We must all do our part to minimize the risk of a combustible dust fire or explosion.
- Remember your right to refuse unsafe work. The regulations state that a person must not carry out work or cause others to carry out work if it’s believed to endanger the health and safety of any person.
- Keep in mind that wood dust is considered an undue hazard if it potentially could cause an explosion.
- Keep an eye out for the following potential sources of explosion:
  - a dust cloud in the air
  - dust accumulations on floors and other surfaces that are one-eighth of an inch thick and more than five percent of a contained area
- Should you see a potentially explosive or combustible accumulation of dust, you must refuse to continue working. You must also immediately report this hazard to your supervisor or employer.
- Remember that all fine wood dust is potentially explosive — even dust generated from “wet wood” becomes potentially explosive once it settles and has time to dry.
- You’ll need to regularly monitor and clean-up dust — not only primary dust accumulation areas on production floors, but also secondary areas of accumulation. These include cable trays, duct work, false ceilings, the space behind equipment, and other hidden places.
- You should know that manual cleaning, such as the use of compressed air, can be hazardous. When it’s done incorrectly, it can disperse combustible dust into the air. If it becomes airborne near an ignition source in an enclosed area, it can cause an explosion.
- You’ll need to pay special attention to hot work policies and procedures to ensure that hot work activities, such as cutting, welding, grinding, and others, will not ignite combustible material.

If a high concentration of wood dust becomes airborne and contacts an ignition source in a contained area, an explosion will likely occur.

WorkSafeBC’s Inspectional Response to Sawmill Explosions
Inspectional Response

- Prior to 2012, sawmills were typically inspected once or twice per year (depending on size and specific circumstances)

- Beginning in late April 2012, WorkSafeBC created and implemented a “Combustible Dust Strategy”

- Specially trained Officer teams
To date, this Strategy has had five identified phases:

- **Phase 1**: May/2012: *Immediate response* - Inspection of all 153 active sawmill operations in BC
- **Phase 2**: July/2012: *Expanded scope of inspections* - to all other wood products manufacturing facilities (pellet, OSB mills)
- **Phase 3**: Nov/12 – Feb/13: *Compliance Confirmation*. Re-inspected all Phase 1 firms to ensure sustained compliance
- **Phase 4**: April – June/2014: *Sustained Compliance*. Focus: sawmills with history of non-compliance; effective workplans; employer/worker knowledge; education outreach; Right to Refuse Unsafe Work; escalation of enforcement and sanction tools.
What We Saw...Dust Accumulations: The Bad
What We Saw...Dust Accumulations:
The Good
Sawmills Inspections: The Results
Sawmill Inspections – Results

Apr/12 - Jan/15: Total number of:

a) Combustible dust inspections: 2400+
b) Combustible dust orders: 368
c) Stop work orders: 19
d) Penalties issued: 15

By end of Q2/2014:

• No mills had dust hazards presenting risk of a catastrophic event.
• Orders issued only for localized, not generalized, dust accumulations
• Many employers improved/installed engineering controls
• Compliance rate for sawmills was now up to 84%

By January/2015: During the most recent 17-week inspection initiative (Nov/14 – Jan/15), 1572 weekly summary inspection reports were submitted to WorkSafeBC.

• Only 6 reports provided evidence of poor condition or deficiency
• Only 3 reports resulted in WorkSafeBC inspections being conducted
• Only 2 Orders were issued, including one stop work order
Pellet Mill Inspections - Results

• By end of Q2, 2014:
  • For the 15 Pellet, OSB and MDF mills inspected, the compliance rate was only 40%
  • Four of the 12 Pellet mills (at six locations) were issued Stop Work Orders for major violations.
  • Because pellet mills were experiencing particular challenges with managing wood dust, more immediate intervention was needed.
  • WorkSafeBC held several meetings pellet mill industry associations and senior representatives of all pellet mills to discuss results and how to achieve compliance.

• By end of January/2015
  • Pellet mills now much improved and taking wood dust control very seriously
  • New mills being constructed with designed/engineered dust control
90 Day Action Plan ~ March 2014

March 31, 2014:

- Joint Statement on Sawmill Safety and Sustained Compliance
- BC Government, the forest industry, organized labour, and WorkSafeBC issued a joint statement focused on combustible dust and sawmill safety:

  - “We had a frank and open discussion on sustainable compliance at this meeting and the result is an aggressive co-ordinated plan to accomplish a number of specific outcomes in the next 90 days.

  - “All of us agree that the overarching concern here is every worker has the right to a safe workplace and to come home safe at the end of their shift.”
90 Day Action Plan (cont)

The 90 Day Action Plan included the following:

1. Council of Forest Industries will ...stipulate membership conditions related to compliance with the combustible dust strategy. **DONE**

2. Technical experts will be established by industry and supported by WorkSafeBC to help all mills on compliance .... **DONE**

3. The Manufacturers’ Advisory Group, ... will use its expertise and resources to ensure that best practices [i.e.: the Audit tool] regarding sawmill dust risk reduction are shared with any company needing help... **DONE**
90 Day Action Plan (cont)

4. [MAG’s] Audit Tool will be reviewed by all parties to evaluate it as an enforceable standard. WorkSafeBC will lead that discussion. **DONE**

5. Sawmill employers, organized labour, and WorkSafeBC will launch an awareness campaign on workers’ rights in refusing unsafe work. A toolbox kit on the issue will be provided by WorkSafeBC. **DONE**

6. WorkSafeBC will double the size of the designated inspection team to 20 and launch further sawmill inspections during Phase 4 of their Sawmill Inspection Initiative. The focus of this phase will be on companies which were found to be out of compliance, particularly in Phase 3, but all sawmills will be included. **DONE**
90 Day Action Plan (cont)

7. WorkSafeBC will write to the 61 sawmills with combustible dust compliance issues during Phase 3 to set expectations for the next round of inspections. Where there is repeat non-compliance, WorkSafeBC Officers will consider penalties. **DONE**
New OH&S policies on Wood Dust

- **July 2014:** WorkSafeBC’s Board of Directors approved three new OHS policies on wood dust mitigation and control.
- Sept 1/2014: The policies became effective
  - The Policies provide clarity and consistency around what WorkSafeBC considers to be reasonable steps for employers, workers, and supervisors to take regarding hazardous wood dust.
- October/2014, WorkSafeBC Officers conducted site visits with *all* BC sawmills to discuss the new policies as well as inspection options.
- In line with the new policies, WorkSafeBC continues to focus on consultation, education, and enforcement as appropriate, to ensure that wood dust is appropriately managed by employers.
Going Forward: Resources for Industry
Going Forward: Resources for Industry

1. The Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI)
   http://www.fipibc.ca/

2. Other Industry Resources

3. A Health & Safety Association for Wood Products Manufacturing (sawmills and pellet mills)
Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI)

WHAT IS FIPI?

The BC government announced, in October 2012, the creation of the Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI) to improve fire code compliance in primary wood product manufacturing operations that have combustible wood dust-producing processes. The outcome will be enhanced health and safety for workers in British Columbia from the reduced risk of combustible dust fire, deflagration and explosion.

LEARN MORE
Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI)

GOAL:
- Improve fire code compliance in wood product manufacturing operations that have combustible wood dust-producing processes.
- Enhanced health and safety for workers in British Columbia from the reduced risk of combustible dust fire, deflagration and explosion

WORKPLAN: FIPI has focused on three priorities:
- Education – Workplace Parties
- Education – Local Assistants to the Fire Commissioner
- Fire Safety Plan Referral Process


FUNDING: WorkSafeBC is providing FIPI with up to one million dollars over two years.
The responsibility of employers to ensure worker safety

For the safety of your workers and to prevent devastating property/business loss, it is imperative that you are aware of your obligations under the BC Fire Code, which includes the requirements to control fire hazards and to develop and effectively implement a Fire Safety Plan.

In this section you will find a lot of useful information on how to meet your obligations, and even advice on selecting a subject matter expert (SME) to assist you with the more technical responsibilities.

Selecting a SME

Most employers will need the assistance of a subject matter expert to assist with their Fire Safety Plan and design of their combustible dust fire/explosion controls. + READ MORE

Fire Safety Plans

In an effort to prevent fires and explosions and minimize injury and damage if they occur, building owners and occupiers are required to develop and implement an effective Fire Safety Plan conforming to the BC Fire Code. + READ MORE

Mitigation and Control
Are you aware of the possible fire hazards at work?

As a worker, safety at work is your first priority. If you work in a facility where combustible dust fire/explosion is a hazard you need to know (1) how to recognize the risk, (2) your employer’s mitigation strategies, and (3) the safe work procedures to be followed to prevent the accumulation of combustible dust and its contact with ignition sources.

In this section, you will find useful information to help you recognize and reduce the danger of a combustible dust fire/explosion. Click on each heading below the photo slider for more detailed information.
Training resources for workers, supervisors, and employers

FiPI, in partnership with the Manufacturers’ Advisory Group, has developed some training material for use both on- or off-line.

**Combustible Dust Hazard Recognition**

This education module will increase your awareness of combustible dust fire, deflagration and explosion hazards. For example, you will learn (1) if the dust is combustible, (2) how a dust deflagration or explosion can occur, and (3) what can be done to prevent such them.

Primary audience: Workers, supervisors, and workplace management [READ MORE]

**Combustible Dust Hazard Mitigation**

This education module will increase your awareness of combustible dust hazard mitigation controls, and explosion prevention equipment for dust collectors. For example, you will learn (1) how to determine if there is an explosion risk in the workplace, (2) the different dust control mechanisms, including source collection and transport from dust producing equipment and common dust collection systems, and (3) the different dust collector explosion prevention equipment.

Primary audience: Supervisors and workplace management [READ MORE]

**Contractor Introduction to Combustible Dust**

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Other Industry Resources
Other Industry Resources (cont)

Injury Prevention Resources for Wood Products Manufacturing - Sawmills

The following links list tools, publications, and other resources to help prevent the most common injuries and illnesses in the wood products manufacturing industry. These resources may not meet all the requirements for health and safety in British Columbia. Please check the Workers Compensation Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, and related materials for specific WorkSafeBC requirements.

Combustible wood dust

Investigations | Inspections | Toolbox | Legislation, policy & guidelines
Other Industry Resources (cont)

• Mitigation and Control of Combustible Wood Dust Resource Toolbox
• Combustible Wood Dust Management Program Development Guide
• Combustible Wood Dust Mitigation and Control Checklist
• InfoFlip: Combustible dust in wood products manufacturing: A shop-floor guide for employers and supervisors
• Wood Dust Mitigation and Control Audit
• Auditor Worksheet, Questionnaire and Guideline Hazard Alerts and Bulletins:
• Crew Talks and Toolbox Meeting Guides:
• Training tools:
  • Combustible Dust Hazard Recognition Module
  • Combustible Dust Hazard Mitigation Module
• Occupational disease topic portal
Other Industry Resources (cont)

External Resources:

- Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI)
- BC Safety Authority – Combustible Dust
- Manufacturers’ Advisory Group (MAG) Wood Dust Mgmt Portal:
  "British Columbia's wood products manufacturers have come together in an unprecedented, voluntary collaboration to advance research and best practices in improving mill safety..."
- Combustible Dust: An "OSH Answers" topic.
- Combustible Dust Hazards: Awareness & Safeguarding an amalgamation of current industry understanding of best practices for controlling combustible dust in forest products manufacturing.
- Sawmill Wood Dust Sampling, Analysis and Explosibility
- NFPA 664 Standards for the Prevention of Fires and Explosions in Wood Processing and Woodworking Facilities
- OSHA standards, rules and interpretations related to wood dust.
- Wood dust in sawmills - Compilation of industry best practices (May, 2012)
Sawmill Inspections: Next Steps
Next Steps Re Inspections 2015:

• Continued emphasis on ensuring *sustainable* control of combustible wood dust.

• WorkSafeBC will retain the core team of Prevention Officers assigned to this past combustible wood dust inspection initiative.

• Inspections will continue with the approach adopted under the Combustive Dust Sawmill Inspection Initiative Q3-4 2014.

• Next round of WorkSafeBC inspections to *validate* industry’s ongoing progress and *verify* that effective and sustainable wood dust programs are being maintained.
WorkSafeBC Review and Action Plan; the Macatee Report
April 4/2014: Special Administrator, Gord Macatee appointed to WorkSafeBC.
His four month mandate was to:

1. Ensure future investigations are handled correctly.
2. Ensure that BC’s sawmills are safer workplaces.
3. Understand the merits of and determine best practices in organizational structures, specifically relating to the separation of enforcement vs. regulation.
4. Develop a plan for implementing a world-class inspection and investigation regime.

July 1/2014: The Macatee Report submitted. 43 recommendations. All accepted by Government and WorkSafeBC
Macatee Report’s Recommendations

1. ...

3. WorkSafeBC should proceed towards the adoption of a major case management protocol and system in its investigations. \(\text{DONE}\)

4. Implement a new investigation model that preserves ability to conduct both cause investigations and prosecution investigations. \(\text{DONE}\)

5. Move forward with the development of occupational health and safety policies to specify reasonable steps for employers, workers, supervisors to take to address combustible dust hazards. \(\text{DONE}\)

6. Implement the sustained compliance plan for sawmills as outlined in the report. \(\text{DONE}\)

7. Develop a plan for ongoing inspection of other wood product manufacturers and pellet mills by WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers, with appropriate enforcement efforts to bring this sector into sustained compliance. \(\text{DONE}\)
8. WorkSafeBC should assist the wood product manufacturing industry to create a Health and Safety Association, or expand the scope of an existing one, to address occupational health and safety issues in that industry in future. **DONE**

9. The Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative should be extended, with continued funding from WorkSafeBC, and efforts made to find a permanent host at the municipal level. **DONE**

10. WorkSafeBC should consider developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the appropriate agencies to ensure WorkSafeBC is notified when there is a fire at a workplace in BC. **DONE**

13. Investigation Services must be re-structured to accommodate the recommended dual team model for investigations. **DONE**

18. WorkSafeBC to continue to put a priority on education and proactive compliance and provide resource allocations accordingly. **DONE**
Macatee Report Recommendations

Recommendations Requiring New Legislation:

22. Introduce OHS citations, with escalating fine provisions...

25. Significantly shorten the timelines for the issuing of administrative penalties ...

26. Ensure that when administrative penalties are imposed, the amount of the penalty is proportional, with consideration of the circumstances of the incident and the size of the employer.

27. Amend the Workers Compensation Act to improve the ability to piece the corporate veil to address situations of non-payment of administrative penalties by an employer.
Macatee Report’s Recommendations

28. Amend the Workers Compensation Act to *improve injunctive powers to address egregious and ongoing violations* of the Workers Compensation Act and/or the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

29. WorkSafeBC should *continue to pursue prosecutions for regulatory violations, using major case management* and the appropriate evidence gathering and interviewing techniques.

33. WorkSafeBC should routinely *schedule some Prevention Officers to conduct inspections on weekends and evenings* to create an ongoing and effective level of presence in the workplace.
BC Gov’t Introduces New Legislation

Feb 11/2015

• Bill 9 (proposed amendments to the Workers Compensation Act) introduced in B.C. Legislature. Responding to Macatee Report’s 12 recommendations.

• No proposed legislation to introduce worker penalties.

- “The legislation adds enforcement tools for WorkSafeBC, the province’s chief safety agency. They include on-the-spot fines of up to $1,000, wider discretion to stop work deemed unsafe and the ability to take more forceful action against egregious, willful and repeat offenders.”

- “The new legislation also expands the court’s authority to bar the worst offenders from operating in an industry, and shortens time frames in which companies must conduct investigations into significant workplace incidents.”
Beyond Combustible Wood Dust
Non-Wood Combustible Dust

• Many other manufacturing industries create non-wood combustible dust which are every bit as dangerous as wood dust.
• The non-wood manufacturing sectors with the highest risk, according to WorkSafeBC’s Risk Analysis Unit, are:
  • Metal production and processing
  • Chemical production and processing
  • Plastics and rubber production and processing
  • Food and drink production and processing
  • Wood processing
  • Fabric production and processing
Questions?