

# West Fraser Safety Policies

## #23

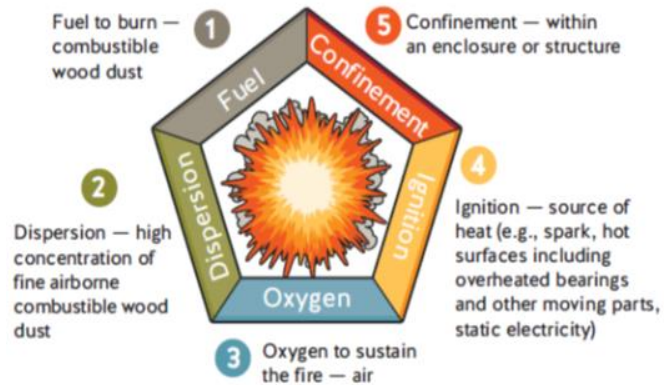
## West Fraser Safety Policy #23 (Wood Dust Mitigation & Control)

### Wood Dust Danger

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

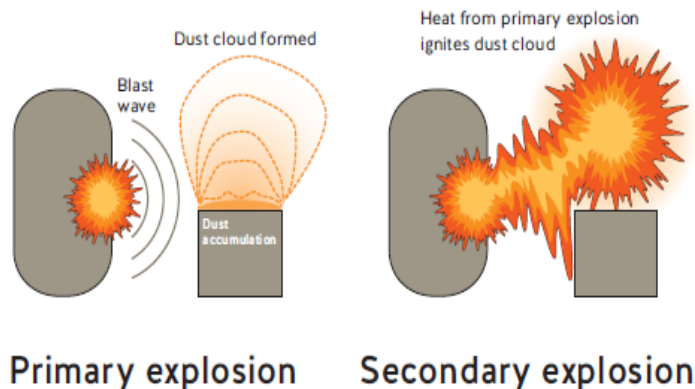
#### Combustible Wood Dust Explosions

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 3mm (1/8”) 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 to combustible wood dust. An arc flash is an example of a small explosion that could trigger a larger secondary explosion.



**CHECK OUT POLICY #23 ON TREELINE**



**West Fraser Mills Ltd.**

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Crew  
Talk