

Workplace Process:

Hazardous Waste Removal/Dust Collector

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the steps that must be taken when removing wood waste from the Dust collectors.

2.0 Hazards

Combustible wood dust is present whenever small enough particulates are suspended in the air in an enclosed environment. Specific to this process, while suspended and confined within the wood shop dust collection system. Any ignition source, including spark, heat, static electricity, flame, or electrical arc could potentially ignite the material present in within the collector system, potentially resulting in an explosion.

3.0 Awareness Training

Any worker tasked with accessing dust collectors must complete the Combustible Dust Awareness module located on the Staff Portal/Health Safety and Wellbeing/Dust Collector Worker Awareness. Orientation to the equipment must also be completed by an individual familiar with the system and power isolation points.

4.0 Controlling Hazards

1. No one will access a dust collector while the system is operating or when a system could be powered on without the worker awareness. Many of our collectors have power isolation points at the collector outside of the building but not all are the same.
2. Try to schedule collection times well before or after the most recent class to allow suspended particles to settle.
3. Before opening the system, survey the area for any potential ignition sources. If unsure if a nearby activity could present a source of ignition, do not proceed.
4. While not a usual hazard to our district's environment, cold dry air can create a static discharge. It is never a bad idea to touch metal before accessing the system to discharge static electricity.
5. No steel or powered tools should be used that can create a spark.

5.0 Hazard Reporting

All hazards found in the worksite must be reported to the area supervisor either directly or through your supervisor. The online hazard Reporting tool found on the staff portal within the health and Safety library is available to all staff to facilitate this electronically if desired.

6.0 Resources

The following are additional resources for determining the best approaching to handling and packaging of hazardous materials prior to disposal.

- WorkSafeBC OHSR 5.70 & 5.71
- SD61 Health and Safety Department