Key Safety Issues for Combustible Dust Handling

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ABSTRACT

Many organic and bio-solid dusts are combustible with the potential for devastating consequences if handled improperly. In response to several significant dust explosions around the country, OSHA has been conducting inspections of a variety of industries since the issuance of the Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program (Dust NEP) in March 2008. Since OSHA hasn’t promulgated their own combustible dust standard yet, they have been primarily relying on NFPA standards for technical support and issuing citations against the General Duty Clause during these inspections. In this presentation we will summarize the general duty clause citations which have been issued with respect to combustible dusts since the Dust NEP took effect. In addition, we will present information on how these relate to the most relevant NFPA standard, NFPA 654 Standard for the Prevention of Fire and Dust Explosions from the Manufacturing, Processing, and Handling of Combustible Particulate Solids. Steps you should take to keep your employees safe and head off combustible dust citations should OSHA come knocking on your door will also be outlined.