

We are



Hello,

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Process Safety Dispatch

In this Issue

- **Dust Collector: Friend or Foe? A lesson in Dust Explosion safety**
 - **QUIZ: The difference between Process Safety and Occupational Safety? - and does it matter?!**
 - **Free On Demand Webinars**
-



Dust Collector: Friend or Foe? A Lesson in Dust Explosion Safety

Now read this very carefully....

Statements 1:

We want to prevent dust clouds forming on plant, yes?

Preventing escape of airborne dust from your plant to workspaces and removing it is good, right?

Collecting all that unwanted dust in **dust collectors/ bag houses** is the way to go, OK?

Statement 2:

In a study of the history of dust explosions, the United States Chemical Safety Board found that in all industries identified as experiencing a dust explosion between 1980 and 2005, **dust collectors are the equipment most often involved in incidents [ref 1]**; In 2005, Zalosh et al. (2005) reported that dust collectors account for more than **40 percent** of all dust explosions [ref 2].

As many of you will already have spotted, these 2 opening propositions can both be valid. They are not contradictory in any way; yet reading these statements together serves to highlight a really important point. Avoiding the formation of potentially explosible dust clouds during processing matters a lot, but what you do with all that dust you've removed is just as important. ***If you are not careful you could simply be moving your dust explosion problem from one place to another!***

[Read More](#)

NEWS FLASH - Since writing this opinion piece we came across news published last week in Die Rheinpfalz [ref 3]:

Damage after dust explosion in dust collector

Property damage estimated at \$100,000 caused by dust explosion and fire in a dust collector; technical defect in dust extraction system; large number of fire brigades, rescue services and police in Wiesental, Germany called out. Fire extinguished by emergency workers.



Photo by Luis Sanchez on Unsplash



Expert Consulting

- Dust Explosion Prevention & Mitigation
- Control of Static Electricity
- Hazardous (Electrical) Area Classification
- Process Hazard Analysis
- Process Safety Management
- Fire and Explosion Hazard Assessment
- Incident Investigation
- Organizational Process Safety Competency Assessment

Specialist Laboratory Testing

- Combustible Dust Testing
- Electrostatic Testing
- Self-Heating / Thermal Instability Testing
- Flammability Testing of Gases & Vapors



The difference between Process Safety and Occupational Safety? - and does it matter?!



Cards on the table from the off!

At Stonehouse Process Safety Inc. our consultant engineers and laboratory staff do what it says on the tin; **Process Safety**. We do occasionally work for our clients on occupational hazards, but it is not our main specialization. But whatever you may think about our specialty, one thing that we do feel strongly about is that there is a real difference between Process Safety and Occupational Safety – AND – **it does matter** that the difference is understood.

So now you have an option:

You can read our words on Occupational and Process Safety in which we discuss the differences – or else you can jump straight to the QUIZ if you think you have a great understanding already. Whichever path you follow, just bear in mind 2 things:

1. The QUIZ is for fun – We do not collect your individual results, although we plan to aggregate the anonymized results, in case we find any misunderstanding or points to raise in future issues of our Process Safety Dispatch, and
2. Whether we are talking about Process Safety or Occupational Safety, and even if we manage to come up with a contentious answer or two that doesn't clearly fit in one category or another, remember that **both** disciplines are incredibly important and, in the end, they are **both** designed to keep us all alive and well!

[Read More](#)

And / or...

[Take the Quiz!](#)

If you would like a quote for any of our testing and/or consulting services, please click on the button below. We will get back to you promptly with your proposal.

REQUEST A QUOTE

Free On Demand Webinars

Combustible Dust Hazards: Assessment, Prevention and Protection Including the Requirements of NFPA 652 [\[watch\]](#)

Electrostatic Hazards in Processing Industry: The Nature of the Problem and Practical Measures for its Control [\[watch\]](#)

Fire and Explosion Hazards: How to Identify and Control Them in Your Process [\[watch\]](#)

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