

We are



Dear Vahid,

January 2023

Process Safety Dispatch

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Wood, Glorious Wood; explosion with fatalities!



Wood Mill Explosion aftermath, Bosely, UK: Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (UK)

Everybody loves wood. It's renewable, recyclable, and natural. Timber is one of the few truly natural, renewable building materials. It's carbon positive and naturally insulating thermally and to sound. It's lovely to work with and improves the mind, body, and soul when you live with it. So, what's not to like?

About a quarter of all dust explosion globally involve wood dust [1]. Does that mean we should keep clear of wood, forgoing all its natural advantages? Certainly not. But it does mean that you must treat this most natural of materials with respect; understand the dust explosion risk and take appropriate measures to ensure the risks are controlled. Stonehouse process safety consultants and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 664 (next article) can help you do this.

The incident

A little after 9:00am on July 17, 2015, a loud explosion was heard in the vicinity of a wood flour mill in Bosley, northern England, UK. The fire service was called to attend 'an explosion' at a wood mill. Two further blasts were to follow. What first responders encountered was dazed people and a fully developed fire surrounding a collapsed, 4 storey, wood mill building. The incident warranted the call out of 23 firefighting appliances in addition to control unit, heavy rescue, and environment protection support. In total, 35 people were affected by the explosions and fire, of which 4 sadly died.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Virtual Live Training Course

- Exploding Dusts - Feb 21 & 22



Exploding Dusts

You've heard it all. NFPA 652, Dust Hazards Analysis, DHA, the brand new, game changing NFPA 660 even? You've even been and got a consultant in to do the necessary DHA. But do you want to know what to do next? Are you struggling to apply the DHA recommendations in a practical and cost-effective way? Or perhaps you are even wondering how you will arrange the mandatory revalidation and update of your DHA?

In our new live, bite-sized, virtual training course we are ready to guide you to all the answers. We'll give you all the basics, tell you about your dust explosion lab results, and what they mean and will lead you to the next steps in your dust fire/ explosion control journey from first-time DHA through to revalidation, including preventing explosions and all the plant protection methods available.

[For more info & Registration](#)

NFPA 664: Standard for the Prevention of Fires and Explosions in Wood Processing and Woodworking Facilities



National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 664 is relevant to all industrial facilities that process wood or manufacture wood products. It also covers facilities handling cellulose fiber as a substitute for/ or additive to wood fiber, as well as those that process wood, creating wood chips, particles, or dust.

We explain here what NFPA 664 is all about, its relevance to the wood/ wood processing sector, and how Stonehouse can assist your business with compliance.

What is NFPA 664?

NFPA 664 is a technical standard prepared by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) that provides information to help you identify and manage fire, flash fire, and explosion hazards of combustible dusts and particulate solids found in the wood and wood processing industries.

The purpose of the standard is to provide minimum requirements for the design, operation, and maintenance of woodworking and wood processing facilities for the safety to life, property protection, and mission continuity from fire and explosion.

NFPA 664 is an industry-specific standard that is referenced by NFPA 652, Standard on the Fundamentals of Combustible Dust. It sits alongside other industry- or commodity-specific standards such as NFPA 61, NFPA 484, NFPA 654, and NFPA 655 and that cover such industries as agricultural and food processing, metals, chemicals, and sulfur.

[Read More](#)

Other Upcoming Virtual Live Training Courses

Preventing Flash Fire and Explosion Hazards in Industrial Processes

March 21 & 22, 2023 – 1:00pm–4:00pm EST

Gases, vapors, aerosols, fibers, dusts and more. Our bitesize course takes you from understanding to hazards analysis, to explosion prevention and protection techniques and through to compliance with standards and guidelines. And we do this with copious doses of video and case study material built up from years of practical experiences. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Electrostatic Hazards in Industry

April 11 & 12, 2023 – 1:00pm–4:00pm EST

Static electricity is a devious subject. Fear not. We have it covered in this neat course designed for those who want to understand how static sparks arise in industry – and what to do to control this most elusive of ignition sources. We walk you through from the basics of the subject to help you understand where it all starts, we enthral you with new video clips of the subject, filmed in our own labs and we lay out practical options available to control static electricity on your plant. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Hazardous Area Classification (HAC)

May 16 & 17, 2023 – 1:00pm–4:00pm EST

You've got flammable atmospheres at your facility. You've got electrical equipment at your facility. Better make sure the two never meet! In our bitesize hazardous area classification course, we aim to have you understanding the requirements of the standards, explain good industrial practice and point you in the right direction to ensure your plant is safe from the fire and explosion hazards presented by electrical equipment. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

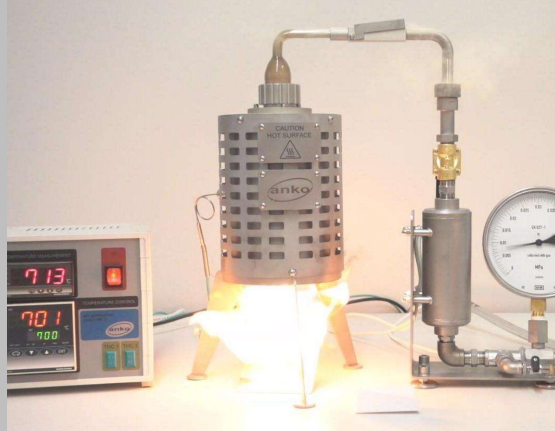


Expert Consulting

- 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



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