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Dear Vahid,

October 2024

## Process Safety Dispatch

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# Dust Explosions Misunderstandings: Let's Clear the Air!



Dust explosion risks are among the most easily overlooked in industry; they often go unnoticed until tragedy strikes. Despite their destructive potential, the science behind dust explosions remains misunderstood leading to a lack of preparedness and unnecessary risk. Many businesses across industries, from food production to agrochemicals, handle combustible dust daily without fully grasping the hazards.

In this article, our process safety consultants tackle a few of the common misconceptions about dust explosions they've encountered over the years - and explain the science behind them - in straightforward (human) terms! Our goal is to help you recognize the risk of dust explosion; and to develop effective safety strategies that prevent incidents.

In this article, we address the following common misconceptions:

- My powder is not fine enough to explode
- Dust explosions are only a risk in large, dusty factories
- If I don't see a visible dust cloud, I don't have a problem
- Only organic dusts will explode
- Any ignition sources can ignite a combustible dust cloud
- Once I've completed a Dust Hazards Analysis (DHA) my plant will be safe
- If my plant is fitted with explosion protection, I can handle any of my powders in it
- Combustibility testing is a one-time task

[Read More](#)

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### 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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**Dust Clouds, Liquids & Gases, Static Electricity, Electrical Sparks, Mechanical Sparks  
Explosions - Learn all about them!**



**Process Safety Training from Stonehouse. Virtual, broadcast live and direct to your PC in two 3-hour segments.**

At Stonehouse, we've been helping hundreds of businesses with their process safety consulting and testing needs. We've built decades of cumulative knowledge, and experience - and (we believe) a unique insight into industry's process safety problems and solutions. Everything from dust explosions and static electricity through to hazardous area classification and process safety management. Now it's time to let you benefit directly from this, through a suite of live virtual training courses, complete with video footage,

solution methodologies, and case studies.

We hope you can join us on-line starting in September for all our virtual and live, bite-sized training events!

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## Upcoming Courses

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### The Courses:

#### Explosions - October 29 & 30, 2024, 1:00pm-4:00pm EST

Gases, vapors, aerosols, fibers, dusts and more. We all know they can (and do) explode uncontrollably in industry threatening life, community, and business integrity. Yet, explosions and flash fires can be prevented and controlled... if you have the knowledge, experience and sometimes ingenuity. Our 'Explosions' course is your key to a safer plant – and peace of mind.

This 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](#).

#### Static Electricity - November 12 & 13, 2024, 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 enthrall 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 - December 10 & 11, 2024, 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 – or else make sure that if they do, the electrics cannot cause a fire or explosion. Knowing where your flammable atmospheres are (classifying hazardous areas) is a fundamental requirement of good process safety – important enough to have its own NFPA standards.

In our 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](#).

[For more info & Registration](#)

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