



SHARP START



October 28 — Don't Let Dust Build Up

Combustible dust 1in deep in all belt lines	Needs cleaned
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Learning: Accumulation Is a Hazard We Can See

Combustible dust can become a serious concern when it is allowed to accumulate in the work environment. In this observation, approximately **one inch of combustible dust was found throughout the belt lines**. That is a condition that needs to be recognized and addressed rather than allowed to continue building.

The important lesson is that housekeeping is more than keeping an area looking clean. When the material being handled can create combustible dust, **dust accumulation itself needs to be treated as a condition that requires attention**.

The belt lines are an area where dust can collect over time, which makes it important to pay attention to areas that may not receive the same attention as normal walking and working surfaces. An area can look acceptable from a distance while dust continues to accumulate in places around equipment and conveyor systems.

This is also an important connection to our hot work awareness. **Combustible material and ignition sources do not belong together**. Keeping dust accumulation under control helps reduce the amount of combustible material present in the work environment.

The observation identified the condition so it could be addressed. The takeaway is simple: don't wait for an accumulation to become someone else's problem. If you see combustible dust building up, **say something and make sure it gets addressed**.

Good housekeeping is an active part of preventing hazards not simply something we do when the job is finished.

Hazards

- Combustible dust accumulation
- Dust collecting around belt lines and equipment
- Increased combustible material in the work area
- Ignition potential when combustible material is present
- Allowing dust accumulation to continue

Words of Wisdom

Housekeeping is part of hazard control. When combustible dust starts to accumulate, don't look past it, recognize it, report it, and get it cleaned up.

Pause and Think

- Where does dust accumulate around the equipment I work around?
- Am I looking beyond the areas that are easy to see?
- What could happen if combustible dust continues to build up?
- If I notice an accumulation, who needs to know?
- Are we keeping combustible material under control before it becomes a larger concern?

Closing Thought

Don't wait for dust to become a bigger problem. See the accumulation, say something, and get it addressed.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something