

Air Quality Hazards: Wood Dust



Wood dust is created during woodworking activities such as sawing and sanding. It is a common health hazard in the sawmill industry.

Some health issues associated with wood dust include:

- Eyes, nose, and throat irritation
- Asthma
- Skin irritation



Engineering controls and personal protective equipment (PPE) are two methods used to control wood dust exposure in the workplace.

Engineering controls:

Installing an exhaust ventilation system that is designed to capture wood dust while it is being produced.

PPE:

- CSA approved Respirator
- CSA approved safety glasses or goggles
- Gloves
- Fitted long sleeve shirt
- Long pants
- Protective footwear



Other things to consider:

- Have a respiratory protection program in place.
- Have employees get fit tested.

