

FACT Sheet Combustible Dust

Why should I worry about Combustible Dust?

Combustible dust has been associated with several catastrophic explosions in workplaces over the past several years. Such explosions are often not just limited to where the dust was located but may quickly spread to the rest of the plant or facility resulting in lives lost, permanent disability and millions of dollars of damages.

Your industry has been identified by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) as having exposures to Combustible Dust.



What is Combustible Dust?

Organic or metal dusts that have been finely ground into very small particles may become an explosion hazard if mixed or suspended in air or some other oxidizing medium. They include:

- Metal dust such as aluminum & magnesium
- Coal and other carbon dusts
- Biosolids
- Other organic dust such as sugar, flour, paper, soap, and dried blood
- Wood dust
- Plastic dust & additives
- Certain textile materials

If there is Combustible Dust within my workplace, what do I need to do and where can I get help?



At minimum, you need to comply with the Hawai'i Occupational Safety and Health (HIOSH) [standards](#) for providing safe employment and a place of employment for your workers.

In general, you need to control the dust through housekeeping (12-72.1 – see 1910.22 on page 7), implement fire protection methods (12-63.1), address electrical issues (12-89.1, see 1910.307 beginning on page 39), and use safeguards specific to certain processes such as laundry

facilities, textiles, and grain handling.

Request a FREE, confidential consultation – 808-586-9135 ([HIOSH Consultation & Training](#))

Click on: HIOSH's [Directive](#) on the Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program.

Click on OSHA's [Safety & Health Topics](#).