History:
On April 25th, following the April 23rd Lakeland sawmill explosion and fire in Prince George, Labour Minister MacDiarmid convened an urgent meeting of representatives of Industry, the Steelworkers Union, and WorkSafeBC – to discuss next steps. All parties committed at that meeting to work together on an expedited basis to seek out and compile industry best practices around combustible dust control in sawmills. It was agreed that the resultant Best Practices document would be made available to everyone in the industry as quickly as possible.

Goal (per WES Executive):
“**The goal is to share and communicate best practices, in a plain language way, to mitigate hazards. There is no mandate to reach consensus on these best practices. There will be many different ways to address the issues – the mandate of this group is to collect them and make them available**”.

Scope of Work:
- Industry will provide/submit known industry **best practices** around combustible dust control at sawmills.
- WorkSafeBC will play the role of coordinator/facilitator. The WSBC team will act as the central depository of the information submitted by Industry and from the Steelworkers Union.
- That information/documentation (in a variety of digital formats) will be compiled into a master document that sets out groupings of similar best practices, organized in such a way as to provide the most effective access to those who need the information. The source of each best practice will be identified.
- WSBC will include any appropriate internally generated documents such as: “Combustible Dust Strategy - Phase 1 (Sawmills)”.

Caveat:
- WorkSafeBC will **not** be re-writing the best practice information/documents as submitted by Industry, nor will we be editing it. WSBC’s role is only to compile and organize the industry provided material into a draft document. Once the draft is created, the draft document will be returned to the Industry workgroup for review and final editing.
- The final form of this document will operate solely as a repository for submitted best practice information. It should **not** be construed that the contents of this Best Practices document submitted by Industry are in any way endorsed or approved by WorkSafeBC.
Workgroup team members:

Industry:

1. Peter Lineen (BCFSC)
2. Anne Mauch (COFI)
3. Kerry Douglas (MAG)
4. David Murray (MAG)
5. Steve Hunt (Steelworkers)
6. Bob Matters (Steelworkers)

WSBC Team:

Industry Experts/Content Review

1. Geoff Clark
2. Barry Nakahara
3. Dave Lachance
4. Ian Salomon
5. Mark Peebles

Regulatory Issues:

1. Nancy Harwood
2. Ana Ostojic
3. Anne Burch

Document Production Team:

1. Gordon Thorne
2. Jennifer Tsui
3. Barry Millar

Best Practices Document:

Timelines:

- April 23rd: Explosion and fire at Lakeland sawmill, Prince George.
- April 25th: Labour Minister MacDiarmid convenes an urgent meeting of representatives of Industry, the Steelworkers Union, and WorkSafeBC – to discuss next steps
• April 26th: WSBC team assembled. Work with Industry begins. Ambit of project agreed to. Industry partners begin search for best practices around combustible dust control in sawmills.
• April 30th: 7:30 am: Conference call with Industry and WSBC team re process and ambit of project
• May 1st: Noon: Cut off for submission/receipt of industry best practices documents
• May 2nd: 3:30 pm: Completion of 1st draft of Best Practices document. Draft document sent out to industry for review.
• May 3rd: 1:30 pm: Conference call with Industry and WSBC team re further revisions
• May 4th: 8am-3pm: Day devoted to final edits
• May 4th: 4:30pm: Deadline to get Best Practices document finalized and made available to industry. (Caveat: achieving this 4:30 pm deadline is contingent upon Industry reviewing and providing feedback in sufficient time for final edits to be made to final document).

The “Next Steps” section (below) was created following a discussion (Donna Wilson/Betty Pirs/Dale Walker) that took place during a May 2nd de-brief meeting about the Burns Lake Sawmill explosion Investigation. These two future steps will be discussed with our industry partners in a conference call scheduled for Thursday afternoon (May 3rd). Following that conference call, these future steps will be updated/revised.

Next Steps

1. As/when further best practice documents/information are submitted with respect to combustible dust control in sawmills, updated iterations of the Best Practices Document will be compiled and distributed throughout the industry.

2. WSBC will speak to industry to determine how to best compile and distribute on-going industry communications about combustible dust control in sawmills. WorkSafeBC will again take on the role of coordinator/facilitator of this industry driven process.