



BC Forest Safety
Safety is good business



**Drum Dryers Symposium:
Developing Best Practices for Safer Operations
Online, Thursday, April 4, 2024 9-11 AM PST (1-3 PM AST)**

AGENDA & SPEAKER BIOS

9:00 am – 9:10 am	Opening Comments, Participant Instructions & Welcoming Remarks Speaker: Julie Griffiths, Quality, Sustainability and Environmental Program Coordinator, Shaw Renewables and WPAC Safety Committee Chair
9:10 am – 9:20 am	Best Practices for Managing Combustible Gas (Video)
9:20 am – 9:30 am	Rotary Drum Dryer Safety Speaker: Mike Tasker, Occupational Safety Officer, WorkSafeBC
9:30 am – 9:40 am	Learnings From the Past for a Safer Future Speaker: Gordon Murray, Executive Director WPAC
9:40 am – 9:50 am	Understanding the Root Causes Speaker: Kayleigh Rayner Brown, P.Eng., Obex Risk Ltd. Gain an understanding of the key issues regarding drum dryers, including types of incidents, severity, and frequency, utilizing case studies and lessons learned from other industries.
9:50 am – 10:00 am	Optimizing Dryer Operation and Reducing Risk Speaker: Jeff Johnston, VP of Technical Operations, Drax North America. Hear about experiences and learnings with start-up and shutdown procedures, differences in dryer configurations and types, and strategies for optimizing dryer operation, including a focus on automation.
10:00 am – 10:10 am	Continuous Improvement with Shaw Renewables Speaker: Jody Head, Site Supervisor, Shaw Renewables Learn about the current status of continuous improvement and outlook for improving safety and mitigating dryer risk at Shaw Renewables.

10:10 am – 10:20 am	<p>Applying Bow Tie Analysis to Drum Dryers Speaker: Michael Fantillo, Production Supervisor, Premium Pellet</p> <p>Learn how the practical application of bow tie analysis has helped improve the safety of drum dryers. Session will include bow tie excerpts, key takeaways, and suggestions on how the industry can continue to leverage bow ties.</p>
10:20 am – 10:40 am	<p>Toward A Safer Future: Group Discussion Led by Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables and WPAC Safety Committee Chair</p> <p>Engage in an interactive discussion to identify trends and key themes of drum dryer safety, along with shared goals and objectives for the proposed working group.</p>
10:40 am – 10:50 am	<p>WorkSafeBC's Observations and Recommendations Speaker: Geoff Thomson, Occupational Safety Officer, WorkSafeBC</p>
10:50 am – 11:00 am	<p>Next Steps Led by Julie Griffiths, Shaw Renewables and WPAC Safety Committee Chair</p>
11:00 am	<p>Symposium Adjourns</p>

Drum Dryer Symposium Speaker Bios

Julie Griffiths, MSc, P.Geo., Quality, Sustainability & Environmental Program Coordinator, Shaw Renewables & Chair of WPAC Safety Committee

Julie is the Quality, Sustainability and Environmental Program Coordinator for Shaw Renewables, a division of The Shaw Group Limited. Shaw Renewables operates two pellet plants, one that produces industrial pellets in New Brunswick and one that produces primarily residential pellets in Nova Scotia. Julie leads Renewables' quality and sustainability programs, dust and fire prevention initiatives, and works on many continuous improvement projects. She has a Master of Science from Dalhousie University and has gained a keen eye for constant improvement, safety, and process efficiency from continuous education in Lean and Leadership Development. Julie has worked across several industries and has settled into the wood pellet sector. She is currently the Chair of WPAC's Safety Committee.

Mike Tasker, Occupational Safety Officer, Prevention Field Services, WorkSafeBC

Mike works as an occupational safety officer in the Prince George region of WorkSafeBC where he has been employed for 25 years. Before joining WorkSafeBC, Mike spent many years in a wide range of industry positions, including supervision and safety management. In 2004, he achieved national accreditation as a Canadian Registered Safety Professional through the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering. Mike is the co-creator of WorkSafeBC's new Supervising for Safety Program. This Program is an online adaptation of a two-day classroom-based course that is a flexible, engaging approach to reviewing best practices in safety management with helpful tips you can use immediately. Since its inception, the Supervising for Safety Program has been completed by more than 12,000 students.

Gordon Murray, Executive Director, Wood Pellet Association of Canada

Since 2009, Gordon Murray has been the executive director of WPAC where he works as an ardent advocate on behalf of Canadian producers, traders, ports, terminals, shipping companies, equipment suppliers, and all those who want to participate in growing a safe and prosperous wood pellet industry. Prior to his role with WPAC, Gordon worked in operations and finance in the wood products industry. Gordon has a Bachelor of Science in forestry from the University of British Columbia. He is both a registered professional forester and a chartered professional accountant.

Kayleigh Rayner Brown, MAsc, P.Eng., Process Safety Specialist and Director, Obex Risk Ltd.

Kayleigh Rayner Brown, MAsc, P.Eng., is a Process Safety Specialist and Director at Obex Risk with expertise in hazard analysis and combustible dust. Kayleigh has more than 14 years of professional experience working across a range of industries, including wood products manufacturing, aerospace, oil and gas, and nuclear.

Kayleigh helps organizations protect their operations and personnel, enhance productivity, and improve health and safety metrics. Kayleigh collaborates with the wood products manufacturing industry on progressive safety initiatives and provides technical guidance on a range of health and safety, and continuous improvement programs. Kayleigh completed a Master of Applied Science in chemical engineering from Dalhousie University, specializing in process safety, inherently safer design, and industrial risk management. She is a registered Professional Engineer in Nova Scotia and British Columbia and holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical), as well as a Bachelor of Science (Honours) (Chemistry).

Jeff Johnston, VP of Technical Operations, Drax North America

Jeff Johnston is the Vice President of Technical Operations for Drax Northern Operations. With over 18 years of experience in the forest products industry, Jeff has extensive experience with rotary drum drying operations spanning natural gas drying, biomass burning, and step-grade furnaces. Previous roles include Technical Manager for Drax, where he used his experience to lead technical operations and processes, General Manager, Senior Operations Manager, and Plant Manager for Pinnacle Renewable Energy. Jeff has been a part of the WPAC Safety Committee since 2016.

Jody Head, Site Supervisor, Shaw Renewables – Hardwoodlands

Jody is currently the Site Supervisor at Shaw Renewables' Nova Scotia pellet plant. Jody has over 15 years of operational experience, working in several forest product manufacturing sectors across Canada, including lumber mills, OSB plants, and wood pellet plants. Jody has an in-depth understanding of forest products manufacturing, a keen eye for continuous improvement, and the ability to bring out the best in employees. He has a Project Management Certificate from St. Mary's University and has participated in a multitude of safety and leadership courses.

Michael Fantillo, Production Supervisor, Premium Pellet

Mike has been the production supervisor and certification coordinator at Premium Pellet for the past five years and has been in leadership roles within the wood product industry for the past 18 years. Mike is directly involved in all aspects of the plant. Learning about bow tie analysis as part of WorkSafe BC's Process Safety Initiative, Mike and the Premium Pellet team embraced the Bow tie process and have involved themselves in many other bow tie analysis as a result.

Geoff Thomson, Occupational Safety Officer, Prevention Field Services, WorkSafeBC

Geoff Thomson has been an Occupational Safety Officer with WorkSafeBC since 2006. He consults, educates, and enforces occupational hygiene, focusing on asbestos, silica, sensitizers, noise, and welding hazards. He has a Master of Applied Science in Occupational Hygiene from the University of British Columbia and is an ABIH Certified Industrial Hygienist in Comprehensive Practice of Industrial Hygiene. He has participated in the process safety initiative since its inception in 2017.