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The Leading Consultancy in the Wood Pellet Sector



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BIOMASS
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Safer Biomass Handling and Storage *Preventing Fire and Explosions* May 9, 2024

Note: the workshop will be in English and Japanese.

- 9:30 – 10:00** **Registration, Networking and Coffee**
- 10:00 – 10:25** **Why This Workshop Matters in Japan**
Presenter: Masayoshi Takezaki, General Manager, Itochu
- 10:25 – 10:45** **Safer Storage Through Shared Experiences, Opening Remarks**
Presenter: Mr. Gordon Murray, Executive Director, Wood Pellet Association of Canada.
- 10:45 – 12:00** **Starting with the Basics: Prevention Through Handling & Storage and Understanding**
Presenter: Ms. Kayleigh Rayner Brown, Director and Process Safety Specialist, Obex Risk Ltd.
- In this session, we will discuss biomass handling and storage considerations, such as the generation of combustible dust and gas, off-gassing, and emissions. We will also explore self-heating or external ignition sources and, most importantly, actions to prevent biomass ignition.
- 12:00 – 13:00** **Lunch**
Lunch will be provided in the meeting room.
- 13:00 – 14:15** **If A Fire Happens: Effective Approaches to Fire Suppression**
Presenter: Mr. John Swaan, Operations and Project Development Expert, FutureMetrics
- Mr. Swaan will share proven and effective fire prevention and suppression methods when handling and storing biomass, including creating an inert atmosphere in the storage facility to limit access to oxygen and discharging material. Participants will also learn from real-life experiences, assessments, and observations.

14:15 – 14:35

Analyzing the Hazards: Moving from Reactive to Proactive

Presenter: Ms. Kayleigh Rayner Brown

Learn about bow tie analysis, a leading-edge method for systematically assessing the hazards of handling and storing biomass. Learn the fundamentals of this practical tool for reducing hazards.

14:35 – 14:45

Getting Down to Tactics: A Response Plan

Presenter: Mr. John Swaan

We will review and discuss a response plan template and share our insights from Japanese and Canadian perspectives.

14:45 – 15:15

Coffee Break

15:15 – 15:45

Getting Real: Case Studies

Presenters: Mr. John Swaan and Ms. Kayleigh Rayner Brown

In this session, we will highlight real-life silo fire examples, including responses, action plans and preventative measures. Our experts will also discuss training for workers both in the plant and with local fire departments.

15:45 – 16:40

A Path Forward

Integrated Learning Session

Using a confidential online feedback tool, hear what others think about storage and handling safety. You will learn:

- The safety concerns that keep people up at night.
- Views on the greatest risks to safe biomass storage and handling.
- The relationship organizations have with the fire brigade.
- The solutions and risk reduction measures people are interested in learning more about.
- Views on how we can avoid these incidents in the future.

16:40 – 17:00

In Closing: Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

Presenter: Mr. Gordon Murray / Dr. William Strauss, President, FutureMetrics

The Wood Pellet Association of Canada has made the safety of its industry, workers and communities its top priority at home and abroad. Mr. Murray will offer his observations from the day and key takeaways that we can all use to ensure safer storage and workplaces. Dr. Strauss will discuss why safety is important for the industry's future.