

WPAC Conference

ADVANCING SAFETY TOGETHER: WPAC'S ONGOING COMMITMENT



Julie Griffiths
September 23, 2025

WPAC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Established in 2014.
- Initial focus on combustible dust.
- Expanded to other occupational, health and safety matters, including lockout tagout, working at heights, confined spaces and process safety.
- Continuously progressive safety projects that reflect and respond to the needs of the sector.
- Work closely with WorkSafeBC and BC Forest Safety Council.



WPAC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- Monthly 1-hr meeting
- Members are primarily from wood pellet and biofuel industry, UBC, WPAC, Forest Safety Council
- Meetings include:
 - Safety share
 - Scenario and discussion
 - Opportunity for industry discussions
 - Updates to ongoing projects & info sharing
 - Review of new industry requirements or government initiatives



ROTARY DRUM DRYER SAFETY

Symposium (complete)



Working Group (ongoing)



Safer SOPs & Recommendations
(Q4 2025)



Share learnings
(Q1 2026)





SAFETY

[Home](#) > [Safety](#)

Every day, WPAC members and their employees work tirelessly to ensure leading safety practices are implemented and embraced. We know we will be measured by our collective efforts as an industry. Our reputation and the trust of regulators, the general public and the families of our employees depend on this. Read our 2025 safety workplan [here](#).

pellet.org/safety

Safety Initiatives

The WPAC Safety Committee has a wide range of ongoing initiatives to keep people safe.

Online Learning Platform	⊕
Inherently Safer Design (ISD)	⊕
Process Safety Management (PSM)	⊕
Drum Dryer Safety	⊕
Bow-Tie Analysis of Working at Heights	⊕
Deflagration Isolation	⊕
Combustible Gas	⊕
Critical Control Management	⊕
Fibre Pile Management	⊕
Belt Dryer Safety	⊕
Best Practices for Managing Combustible Dust	⊕
Confined Space	⊕

DIVE DEEPER

EXTERNAL LINK

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FACT SHEET

Online Interactive Operator
Safety Training

PAGE

Inherently Safer Design
(ISD)

PAGE

Process Safety Management
(PSM)

PAGE

Deflagration Isolation

PAGE

Combustible Gas




PAGE

Critical Control
Management

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WPAC Safety Committee

Are you a member of the WPAC Safety Committee or want to become one? You'll find everything you need on this page.

WPAC Safety Committee Responsibilities	
Safety Workplans	
WPAC Safety Committee Members & Meetings	

DIVE DEEPER

EXTERNAL LINK
Safety Committee Role and Responsibilities

REPORT
WPAC Safety Committee Workplan

EXTERNAL LINK
Safety Committee Members

EXTERNAL LINK
Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

EXTERNAL LINK
Past Workplans

Safety Hero Award

WPAC's Safety Hero Award is for WPAC members and their coworkers who work tirelessly to ensure leading safety practices are implemented and embraced.

Nominate a Safety Hero!



WPAC'S SAFETY HERO



Ted Brown, Site Trainer at Drax Entwistle in Alberta, always endeavours to ensure that safety is the top priority.

Ted stepped into the newly established Site Trainer position in October 2024 and hit the ground running, enhancing training at the facility. He updates all onboarding and training documents and supports Drax's 30-60-90 day check-in process for new hires.

[Learn more about Ted.](#)



Brett Wickstrom, Maintenance Lead Hand from Drax Meadowbank in British Columbia, is a great leader who ensures safety is the number one priority before any work is started. He always ensures staff and contractors are wearing proper PPE, and if they don't have something they need, he will stop what he is doing and get it for them.

[Learn more about Brett.](#)

DIVE DEEPER

EXTERNAL LINK

[Safety Hero Poster](#)

NEWS

Ted Brown, Site Trainer at Drax Entwistle—WPAC's Latest Safety Hero

NEWS

WPAC's June Safety Hero: Brett Wickstrom from Drax Meadowbank

NEWS

WPAC's May Safety Hero: Brian Fluter, Electrician at Drax High Level

NEWS

WPAC's Latest Safety Hero: Brian Penney, Safety Manager at Drax Entwistle

NEWS

WPAC's October Safety Hero: Corinne Nendick, Plant Leadhand at Drax Princeton

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Safety Resources

Find all of the latest safety resources here.

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pellet.org/safety

FREE ONLINE OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Safety Foundation Webinar Series	Plant Operators Health and Safety Training	Professional Skills for Supervisors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human-Machine Interaction (HMI)• Safe Handling & Storage of Biomass• Bow Tie Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workplace Attributes• Risk & Risk Control• Legislation, Regulations & Tickets• Health and Safety of Operators• Upset Conditions• Process Safety Management• Combustible Dust & Gas• Plant Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Factors• Orientation, Training & Skills Development• Effective Safety Supervision• Communication Skills• Leadership Skills• Due Diligence• Hazard ID, Inspection & Investigation

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FREE ONLINE SAFETY TRAINING



Safety Foundation Webinar Series

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- Safe Handling & Storage of Biomass
- Bow Tie Analysis

Plant Operators Health and Safety Training

- Workplace Attributes
- Risk & Risk Control
- Legislation, Regulations & Tickets
- Health and Safety of Operators
- Upset Conditions
- Process Safety Management
- Combustible Dust & Gas
- Plant Operations

Professional Skills for Supervisors

- Human Factors
- Orientation, Training & Skills Development
- Effective Safety Supervision
- Communication Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Due Diligence
- Hazard ID, Inspection & Investigation



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BC Forest Safety
Safety is good business

This project was partially funded through a WorkSafeBC small initiatives grant. The views, findings, opinions, and conclusions expressed herein do not represent the views of WorkSafeBC.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES

- 2026 Wood Pellet & Bioenergy Safety Summit
- Winter Fibre Truck Loading/Unloading
- Mobile Equipment
- Mental Health
- Musculoskeletal Injuries (MSI)
- Process Safety Management

WPAC SAFETY COMMITTEE COMMITMENT

- Safer industry
- Greater cooperation across industry
- Improved reputation with public and regulators





WOOD PELLET
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA