

Fire Prevention Tips for Pneumatically Conveyed Trim and Dust Collection Systems



Is your pneumatic conveyed trim collection system a fire waiting to happen? October is Fire Prevention Month which makes it a good time go over your system to make sure no fire hazards exist. Read on for five items to check.

1. **Keep your system clean.** A regular housekeeping program is vital. Check places where loose dust tends to collect as well as places where dust tends to cake. If your system conveys dust with special properties (metal dust is a good example), work with a contractor experienced in the safe removal of that particular kind of dust.
2. **Keep blower bearings greased.** Failing bearings heat up which can lead to a blower shaft getting red hot and igniting the material being conveyed in your system. A preventive maintenance program that includes regular greasing of blower bearings will help reduce your risk.

3. **Keep metal out of the shredder.** Unfortunately, there's no good technological solution for this problem. The technology that is available is expensive and doesn't work well. The best option for most companies involves training employees to keep metal out of the containers collecting scrap material to be shredded.
4. **Reduce static-related baler false cycling.** When static collects on baler photo eyes, it can trigger false cycling. False cycling can cause friction fires in the baler. This common cold weather problem can be reduced by using static eliminating cartridges in the compressed air on the photo eyes and in the air conveying system ducts. [Click Here](#) to learn more about how static eliminating cartridges can help your system.
5. **Make sure your employees know how to fight a baler or shredder fire.** In addition to being familiar with firefighting equipment, every employee who might be in a position to fight a fire in your baler or shredder needs to know that fires that occur on these machines are fought differently than other fires. It's vital that oxygen (air) be kept out of the equipment as much as possible by avoiding opening access doors to get water into the smoldering paper in baler or shredder. One way to avoid having to let air in to put the fire out is to have a manual setup for a water deluge valve inside of the baler or shredder. This makes it possible to put water on the bale or scrap material without opening any doors to let oxygen in.

A little fire prevention can go a long way. Fire Prevention Month is a great time to meet with employees to raise awareness about fire prevention and the vital role they play in minimizing risk and responding to fires if they do occur.

Questions? For more information, give G.F. Puhl a call at 615.230.9500 or email us at sales@gfpuhl.com.