



**CITY OF BLAINE
SAFETY SERVICES
Fire Inspections
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WOOD PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING AND STORAGE FACILITIES, AND YARD WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITIES

The storage, manufacturing and processing of timber, lumber, plywood, veneers, and byproducts must meet the following partial list of requirements. The complete requirements can be found in the Minnesota State Fire Code Chapter 19.

Permits Required

A fire inspection operational permit is required for:

- Storage or processing of lumber in excess of 100,000 board feet.
- Storage of chips, hogged material, lumber, or plywood in excess of 200 cubic feet.

General Requirements

Dust control equipment must be provided. See the DUST COLLECTION handout.

Where a dust explosion hazard exists in equipment rooms, buildings or enclosures, such areas shall be provided with explosion venting or an approved explosion suppression system.

Provisions shall be made for the systematic and thorough cleaning of the entire plant at sufficient intervals to prevent the accumulation of combustible dust and spilled flammable or combustible liquids.

Provisions shall be made for separately collecting and disposing of metal scrap so that such scrap will not end up in the wood handling or processing equipment.

Cutting and welding must be done in a safe manner, in an approved location, and with a fire watch. See CUTTING AND WELDING handout.

Bonding and grounding cables must be provided for equipment subject to static electricity building up.

Approved NO SMOKING signs must be provided in areas with combustible materials, and flammable or combustible liquids.

Approved fire department access roads must be provided and maintained around the building and throughout the storage yard.

Fire Alarm System

An approved means for transmitting alarms to the fire department must be provided in timber and lumber production mills and plywood and veneer mills.

A manual fire alarm system is required in timber and lumber production mills and plywood and veneer mills that contain product dryers, except where dryers and ignition sources are protected by a supervised automatic sprinkler system.

A supervised automatic sprinkler system is required in all new facilities 2,000 square feet or larger.

Plywood, Veneer and Composite Board Materials

Dryers shall be protected by an approved deluge fire sprinkler system. A manual activation valve must be located within 75 feet of the drying equipment.

Facilities that use heat transfer fluids to provide process equipment heat through piped, indirect heating systems shall comply with NFPA 664.

Log Storage Areas

Piles of unfinished cut logs shall not exceed 500 feet in length, 300 feet in width and 20 feet in height.

Logs and pole piles shall be stabilized by approved means.

Storage of Wood Chips and Hogged Materials in Association with Timber and Lumber Production Facilities

Piles shall not exceed 500 feet in length, 300 feet in width and 60 feet in height. Piles shall be separated by from adjacent piles by approved fire lanes.

Automatic sprinkler protection shall be provided in all conveyor tunnels and combustible enclosures.

Heavy equipment shall be available for moving wood chips and hogged materials.

The owner shall provide an approved plan for monitoring, controlling and extinguishing spot fires.

Storage and Processing of Wood Chips, Hogged Material, Fines, Compost and Raw Product in Association with Yard Waste and Recycling Facilities

Storage sites shall be level and on solid, all weather surfaces.

Piles shall not exceed 250 feet in length, 150 feet in width and 25 feet in height. Piles shall be separated by from adjacent piles by approved fire lanes.

The internal temperature of static piles shall be monitored by an approved means. Weekly records of pile temperatures shall be kept on site. An approved plan for handling excessive pile temperatures shall be provided.

Automatic sprinkler protection shall be provided in all conveyor tunnels and combustible enclosures.

Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided on all vehicles and equipment operating on or near piles.

Heavy equipment shall be available for moving materials.

The owner shall provide an approved plan for monitoring, controlling and extinguishing spot fires.

Exterior Storage of Finished Lumber Products

Storage shall be arranged to form stable piles with a maximum height of 20 feet.

Piles shall not exceed 150,000 cubic feet in volume.

Approved fire apparatus access roads with a maximum grid system of 50 feet by 150 feet must be provided.

Permanent lumber storage facilities must be surrounded with an approved fence with a minimum height of 6 feet.

An approved fire hydrant and hose system shall be provided.

Portable fire extinguisher shall be provided with a maximum 75 feet travel distance.

Required Inspections

A fire inspection is required on an annual basis.

Fire Marshal Notification

The City of Blaine Fire Marshal shall be immediately notified in the event of a fire.