



Chicago Woodturners

ChicagoWoodturners.com

A local chapter of the American Associations of Woodturners



- APRIL - TEN MINUTES SAFETY PRESENTATION

As a follow up to Turning/Sanding harmful small dust particles discussed in February and April we are offering additional data to reinforce the safety concerns involved.

The April presentation caused three of our members to invest in portable laser particle meters, which have been used to take readings of the air quality in their shops during the past months.

These meters measure particles in the air down to the one micron level, remember the human eye does not see any particle smaller than 3 microns

Even though this is preliminary data, some patterns are clearly emerging. Turning and especially sanding wood on a spinning lathe sends, in 30 seconds or less, enough of these harmful particles to make the air in your shop unsafe.

A surprise was the reading, OFF THE CHARTS, generated in thirty seconds by using the grinder with a 36 grit aluminum oxide wheel to sharpen a gouge. A further surprise was that even with the running of my overhead Powermatic Air Purifier it took well over 30 minutes to bring the reading down to safe levels; over 30 minutes to counteract less than a minutes of grinding.

I will connect the grinder to the dust collection system, have the purifier running and use a dust mask when grinding from now on!

If you are interested we can discuss a summary of the meter readings.

CTW is concerned about your safety. Frank Pagura Safety Officer.