

Workplace Health and Safety Snapshot for Ontario Sawmill and Mill Products Sector in 2019



4,667

Full-time employees



Events resulting in lost-time injury or illness

Injury or illness severe enough to require one or more days lost from work



43%

Contact with objects or equipment

(struck by or against object; caught in or compressed by equipment or objects; and rubbed or abraded by friction or pressure)



39%

Bodily reaction and exertion

(excessive physical effort; free bodily motion that results in stress or strain on the body; assuming an unnatural position; and repetitive motion)



12%

Falls

(falls on same level, and falls to lower level)



6%

All other

(exposure to caustic, noxious, or allergenic substances; non-highway incident; pedestrian struck by vehicle, mobile equipment; assaults, violent acts and harassment)

Most common lost-time injuries

35 **Contact with objects or equipment**, includes struck by or against stationary or moving object, struck by falling or dislodged flying object or particle, struck by slipping handheld object, struck by or slamming in swinging door or gate, caught in or compressed by running equipment or machinery, and rubbed or abraded by foreign matter in eye.

10 **Falls**, includes falls to floor, walkway, or other surface, falls onto or against objects, falls down stairs or steps, falls from ladder, scaffold or staging, falls to lower level.

32 **Bodily reaction and exertion**, includes injuries and illnesses resulting from repetitive motion, bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting, slipping, tripping; overexertion in lifting, pulling, pushing, carrying, or turning objects.

Occupational Disease



23

Noise-induced hearing loss based on approved WSIB claims for healthcare, being off work, loss of wages, or permanent disability.

*Disease fatality claims with a fatality effective date of 2019. Source: WSIB Enterprise Information Warehouse as of March 31, 2020. RG 033B, CU 2511000, 2512000. June 2020 WSN.



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For more detailed statistics and trends

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Overview of Joint Health and Safety Committee certification training

Focus on hazards specific to sawmills

JHSC Certification: Part One (three days)

(Disponible en français)

This mandatory course provides participants with an understanding of how to recognize, assess and control workplace hazards, the rights and duties of certified members, and how to conduct effective workplace inspections and incident investigations.

JHSC Certification: Part Two (two days)

Focusing on the concepts of recognition, assessment, and control of hazards, and evaluation of the hazard controls, participants learn how to apply these concepts to a minimum of six hazards relevant to their own workplaces. In addition, learners practise drafting action plans and recommendations for the employer.

By the end of the two-day course, participants will:

- Review material covered in Certification Part One
- Understand the hazard-related concept of recognize, assess, control and evaluate (RACE)
- Understand key hazards specific to your sector
- Use various tools to help recognize, assess and control hazards, and evaluate hazard controls
- Understand the role of the Joint Health and Safety Committee in relation to the Internal Responsibility System.

Key hazards in sawmills

- Unsafe operation of equipment
- Inadequate maintenance of machine guarding
- Failure to follow lock out procedures
- Poor lifting procedures
- Working in uncomfortable positions
- Work or equipment operation requiring repetitive motion
- Inadequate attention to workplace hazards while walking
- Failure to follow procedures while handling hazardous substances

Also available

Competent Supervisor Training

(Disponible en français)

Health and safety awareness training is now law for every worker and supervisor in Ontario. WSN Competent Supervisor training focuses on the health and safety rights and responsibilities of workers, supervisors, and employers; and gives supervisors the tools to integrate health and safety into their everyday role. Supervisors are responsible for helping set and maintain a strong safety culture.

Safe Chainsaw Use in Forestry Mills

(Disponible en français)

The four-hour combined classroom and optional on-site training session is designed to assist workers in sawmill or veneer operations in the safe care, control and operation of a chainsaw in the unique circumstances of these industries. Using the knowledge, practices and techniques developed in the WSN Professional Chainsaw Operation certification course, this much-abbreviated course will ensure that workers have the basic knowledge to carry out safe chainsaw use in cutting logs and lumber in obstruction or jam-up situations.

About Workplace Safety North

Your local health and safety partner

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four health and safety associations in Ontario, and the only one headquartered in the north.

WSN provides province-wide government-approved workplace health and safety services for forest products and mining sectors, as well as businesses and communities across northern Ontario.

With health and safety specialists located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years.

WSN is a leading provider of health and safety services, and businesses and communities call upon WSN for expert advice and training. For more information, visit workplacesafetynorth.ca.



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