

Top Occupational Disease Risks in Forestry Sector

Carpal tunnel syndrome is top risk

Based on the number of cases among workers in a specific industry group compared to other workers in the Occupational Disease Surveillance System. Sectors include: forestry, logging, and wood industries.*



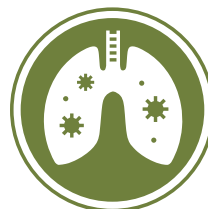
- 1. Carpal tunnel syndrome**
(numbness and weakness in the hands)



- 5. Acute myocardial infarction**
(heart attack)



- 2. Laryngeal cancer** - mostly in forestry



- 6. Lung cancer**



- 3. Asthma** - mostly in wooden box and pallet operations



- 7. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**



- 4. Oral cancer** - mostly in wood industries



- 8. Raynaud's syndrome**
(decreased blood flow to hands or feet, often due to vibrating equipment or exposure to cold) - mostly in wood industries



Noise-induced hearing loss

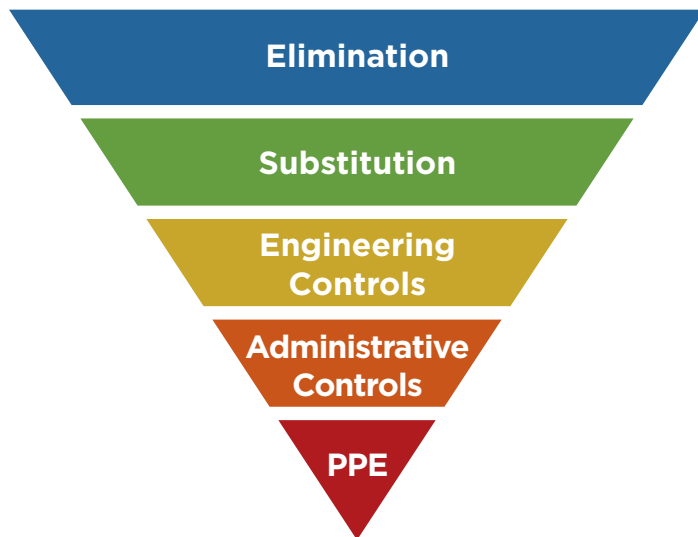
(top disease based on approved WSIB claims, but not included in ODSS data)

For more information, please contact your WSN Health and Safety Specialist or visit workplacesafetynorth.ca

Occupational illness prevention

Industrial hygiene means making sure workplaces are safe by predicting, identifying, evaluating, and managing potential dangers that could harm workers' health. An occupational disease is a health problem caused by the work environment. It can be serious, cause disabilities, and even be fatal.

Hierarchy of controls



Related services

Industrial hygiene testing

Free training material on diesel emission hazards

Radon assessment

Workplace hazardous materials information system training (WHMIS)

About Workplace Safety North

Your health and safety partner

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario. Headquartered in northern Ontario, WSN administers the provincial mine rescue program and provides province-wide Ministry-approved workplace health and safety training and services for the mining and forest products industries. For more information, visit workplacesafetynorth.ca.

*Data sources

Statistics are from the Occupational Cancer Research Centre's Occupational Disease Surveillance System (ODSS).

The system monitors disease outcomes among over two million Ontario workers. Poster rankings are based on increased risk of disease compared to other workers in the ODSS.

Health data come from a variety of sources:

- Ontario Cancer Registry (1964-2020)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) (1999-2020)
- National ambulatory care (day surgery, emergency, walk-in clinics) (2006-2020)
- Discharge abstract database (in-patient hospitalizations) (2006-2020)

Not all diseases have been studied in the ODSS; for example, based on approved WSIB claims, noise-induced hearing loss is a top disease in the forestry sector.

Top-ranked diseases may change over time as the ODSS data and prevention controls continue to evolve.

Industry sectors included

- Forestry (logging and forestry services)
- Wood industries (sawmills, planing and shingle mills; veneer and plywood mills; sash, door and other millwork plants; wooden box and pallet operations; coffin and casket industry; miscellaneous wood industries)

Forestry occupational disease risks 2023-12-14