

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY SNAPSHOT FOR ONTARIO LOGGING SECTOR IN 2016



2,700

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



36%

Contact with objects or equipment
(Struck against object, struck by object, caught in or compressed by equipment or objects.)



29%

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.)



26%

Falls
(Falls to lower levels and falls on same level.)



9%

All others
(Highway incidents, exposure to caustic, noxious or allergenic substances.)

MOST COMMON LOST-TIME INJURIES

21

Contact with objects or equipment, includes struck against stationary/moving/swinging or slipping object, struck by falling/dislodged object, struck by rolling, sliding object, compressed/pinched by rolling, sliding/shifting object and caught in/compressed by equipment/object.

15

Falls, includes falls from ladder, falls from non-moving vehicle, falls to lower level, falls to floor, walkway or other surface and falls onto or against object.

17

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

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE



18

Noise-induced hearing loss Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) healthcare claims.

Source: WSIB Enterprise Information Warehouse as of March 31, 2017. RG 030 WSN May 2017.

MECHANICAL HARVESTING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-FORESTRY PIT AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATOR COMMON CORE TRAINING

(Disponible en français)

Successful completion of the operator's classroom course for mechanical harvesting and forestry pit and road construction equipment meets the classroom training requirements of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) Mechanical Harvesting Equipment Operator and Forestry Pit and Road Construction Equipment Operator (MHEO-FPRCEO) certification program. This course can also be completed online.

INTRODUCTION TO CABLE SKIDDING COMMON CORE TRAINING

(Disponible en français)

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) program Cutter-Skidder Operator Certification is a comprehensive training and evaluation system designed to ensure that all workers, chainsaw and cable skidder operators, in the conventional logging sector of the forest products industry have the skills and knowledge they require to operate a cable skidder safely and efficiently in a logging operation as defined by the Ministry of Labour. The course was developed by WSN and sanctioned by the MAESD as the approved pre-employment training program for the skidder operators in conventional logging operations.

INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL CHAINSAW OPERATION COMMON CORE TRAINING

(Disponible en français)

The course was developed and is under the auspices of Workplace Safety North and sanctioned by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) as the approved program for pre-employment classroom training for chainsaw operators.

KEY HAZARDS IN LOGGING WORKPLACES

- Unsafe felling procedures
- Unsafe operation of equipment
- Inadequate maintenance of machine guarding
- Failure to follow lock out procedures
- Poor lifting procedures
- Working in uncomfortable positions
- Equipment operation requiring repetitive motion

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.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

A strong safety culture is a sign of a healthy, productive workplace. As a member of WSN, you're entitled to expert advice and information, including access to classroom training programs, on-site consultations, health and safety audits, industrial hygiene testing, ergonomic assessments, specific problem-solving, and more.

- On-site employee health and safety training
- Supervisory and management health and safety training
- Workplace safety and health inspections
- Technical safety and health consultation
- Access to health and safety resources

YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY PARTNER

Workplace Safety North is one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario, and provides occupational health and safety training and services for the mining and forest products industries, as well as businesses across northern Ontario.

Training: Ministry-approved courses; Joint Health and Safety Committee Certification, Working at Heights Safety Training, Competent Supervisor, Mental Health First Aid, Mine Rescue, Mining and Forestry Common Core Programs.

Services: Safe Workplace Ontario (SWO) business health and safety certification program, and Health and Safety Systems and Cultural Audit.

An independent not-for-profit organization, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years. For more information, visit workplacesafetynorth.ca.

HAZARD ALERT

INCIDENT WITH SELF-LOADER ON LOGGING TRUCK



WHAT HAPPENED?

An incident with a logging truck self-loader reinforces the importance of following manufacturer's specifications relating to seatbelt usage. The self-loader in this circumstance was not equipped with a seatbelt and during operation the worker fell from the loader platform. The investigation into the incident is continuing.

While operating mobile equipment, it remains important for workers to understand and follow manufacturer's requirements as outlined in the owner-operator manual, ensure the proper use of safety devices, and in the case of dated equipment, retrofit for worker safety or implement alternate means of protecting the worker.

HOW COULD IT HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?

To ensure effective worker safety and equipment operation, the owner-operator manual includes the following key instructions.

- Thoroughly read and understand the entire manual.
- Remain seated in the operator's seat while operating the loader.
- Seatbelt must be worn at all times during loader operation.
- Follow all safety rules and practices explained in the manual; safe operation is the responsibility of the operator.

Mobile equipment operators must follow the information and guidance provided in the manufacturer's owner-operator manuals at all times. Many employers have additional safety requirements to protect workers, which must also be followed.

If a safety device, such as a seatbelt, is not available due to the age of the equipment, or for any other reason, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure the safety of the worker by providing an alternate method to ensure worker safety. In many cases, seatbelts can be retrofitted and installed on equipment.

Employers are encouraged to discuss owner-operator manual safety requirements with workers to ensure full understanding. Ongoing enforcement of these requirements is essential to ensure the safety of all workers operating this equipment.

SAFETY TALK: CONVENTIONAL AND MECHANICAL LOGGING

All loggers face above-average workplace safety hazards

Logging continues to be the most dangerous occupation in Ontario in terms of lost-time injuries from being struck by a tree or caught in equipment. Keep in mind, statistics do not reflect all the close calls and near-misses when you're out in the forest – sometimes the only difference between an injury and a fatality is a matter of inches.

SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

CONVENTIONAL LOGGING

- ❑ Chicots – or dead trees – are notoriously unstable, and known as “widow-makers.” All dead trees eventually fall when they become weak enough. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqoWXfW6W7Q>
- ❑ A gust of wind, vibration from equipment, heavy snowfall, or freezing and thawing soil can suddenly cause a chicot to fall. Every year, one to two Ontario forestry workers are hit and killed by a falling tree or limb.
- ❑ If you enter a work area, or work within the danger zone of a chicot, hang-up, or freestanding tree, you are exposed to the danger of an uncontrolled falling tree, which is against the law. The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires all chicot hazards be removed prior to starting work.
- ❑ Ontario law says all chicots in the danger zone must be safely lowered to the ground before you begin harvesting trees. If a chicot is selected to remain standing for the purpose of a wildlife tree, then no trees can be harvested within its danger zone, which is a radius equal to at least the height of the surrounding stand. Do not risk your life in your workplace.
- ❑ Chainsaw and skidder operators in a logging operation must be certified in the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities mandatory Cutter Skidder Modular Training Standards course. They must also receive workplace specific training by their employer in all aspects of the work they perform, including policies and procedures for safe felling of problem trees and other cutting hazards that might arise when working alone. Contact WSN for assistance in getting started with pre-employment classroom training.
- ❑ In addition to proper operator certification, employers must ensure safety procedures are being followed at all times.
- ❑ Be vigilant around chicot danger zones. Do not risk your life in your workplace.

Regular safety talks help raise awareness and prevent injury and illness on the job. Safety talks are an informal presentation on a specific subject by a person chosen to lead the session, followed by a group discussion of the topic, how it applies in your workplace, and what it means to the people who work there. Communication is key – encourage staff to raise questions and concerns about health and safety.

MECHANICAL LOGGING

- ❑ Always wear high-visibility personal protective equipment.
- ❑ Understand in detail how the danger zone moves along with the machine, and the operator must shut down the equipment immediately if the worker enters the danger zone.
- ❑ Identify all the blind spots on your machine.
- ❑ Do not proceed with the machine through thick brush where others may be working, unless you know where they are located and you have confirmation that it's safe to proceed.
- ❑ Follow company communication procedures, and before entering the danger zone of any machine; the system could include radio communication, but at the very least eye contact is followed by a well-understood hand signal system that clearly establishes the “stop work” rules.
- ❑ For most machines, a stop-work procedure means just that – stopping any movement and lowering any implements or loads to the ground before any worker on foot or other machines or vehicles can enter the danger zone. (Continuous rotation blades can be stopped by pressing the blade against stumps or unmerchantable wood.)
- ❑ Most machinery injuries occur because the equipment is not in a zero energy state. Always follow company zero energy procedures, including the lowering of attachments to the ground, and where necessary blocking or supporting hydraulic equipment and attachments.
- ❑ Equipment operators in a logging operation must be certified in the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities mandatory equipment training programs, such as Mechanical Harvesting and Forestry Pit and Road Construction. Contact WSN for assistance in getting started with pre-employment classroom training.
- ❑ Operators must also receive workplace specific training by their employer in all aspects of the work they perform, including policies and procedures for safe felling of problem trees and other cutting hazards that might arise when working alone.
- ❑ In addition to proper operator certification, employers must ensure safety procedures are being followed at all times.
- ❑ Make it your business to know and follow company danger zone rules. Remain alert at all times and respect machinery danger zones. Do not risk your life in the workplace.

Always look out for each other, and speak up about safety!