

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY SNAPSHOT FOR ONTARIO SAWMILL AND MILL PRODUCTS SECTOR IN 2016



4,827

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



44%

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.)



33%

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.)



18%

Falls

(Falls on same level, falls to lower level and jumps to lower level.)



5%

All others

(Non-highway incidents.)

TOTAL NUMBER OF LOST-TIME INJURIES

37

Contact with objects and equipment, includes struck by or against moving or stationary object, struck by discharged, swinging, rolling, sliding or slipping object, compressed or pinched by rolling, sliding or shifting objects, caught in or compressed by running equipment or machinery, and rubbed or abraded by foreign matter in eye.

15

Falls, includes falls to lower level, falls or jumps from non-moving vehicle, and falls to floor, walkway or other surface.

28

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



11

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

Source: WSIB Enterprise Information Warehouse as of March 31, 2017. RG 033B, CU 2511000, 2512000, N033000 WSN May 2017.

OVERVIEW OF JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE CERTIFICATION TRAINING

Focus on hazards specific to sawmills

JHSC CERTIFICATION: PART ONE (3 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 (2 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 the paper, printing and converting 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

THE 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.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY PARTNER

An independent, not-for-profit health and safety organization, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for 100 years. As one of the four designated provincial health and safety associations, WSN specializes in forestry, mining, and paper, printing, and converting sectors, and is funded by a portion of the dues members pay to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. A leading provider of health and safety training and consulting, businesses call upon WSN for expert advice and information.

HAZARD ALERT

WORKER STRUCK IN THE HEAD BY LOG

WHAT HAPPENED?

A sawmill worker was struck by a log while trying to un-jam it. He fell onto the catwalk behind him, and was later transported to hospital.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

The slasher operator noticed a single skewed log coming up the jack-ladder and notified the worker of the situation. The worker looked for the pole saw to cut the log, but it had been removed for repair.

While the slasher operator remained in the booth, the worker went to the outside of the jack-ladder and climbed onto the railing to access the log. As he gripped the log with both hands to try and un-jam it, he notified the slasher operator to reverse the jack-ladder.

The skewed log was caught in the machinery and forced upward toward the worker. The log struck worker on his left ear muff, the impact knocked his hard hat off, and the worker fell on the steel catwalk behind him.

HOW CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

When working around sawmill machinery:

- Never lean over guardrails for pulling or pushing of material or for any other reason.
- Never stand on toe plates for pulling or pushing of material or for any other reason.
- Never climb onto mid or top rails for pulling or pushing of material or for any other reason.
- Always take the necessary time to lock out and isolate hazardous energy.
- Always use appropriate tools, follow procedures, and ask for assistance when required.



Before each task, always take a few minutes to look for what can hurt you:

1. Think about the task you are about to perform,
2. Identify the hazards associated with the task,
3. Assess the risks associated with the hazards,
4. Implement the controls needed to manage the risks,
5. Safely complete the task.

Contact your WSN health and safety specialist for more information.

workplacesafetynorth.ca/consulting

SAFETY TALKS: SAFE USE OF MACHINERY, FALL PREVENTION

COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKPLACE

The large machinery designed to cut and process wood makes sawmills a hazardous place to work in terms of injuries from equipment. Review the infographic on the front cover keeping in mind statistics do not reflect close calls and near-misses – sometimes the only difference between a traumatic injury and a scary warning can be a matter of inches.

SAFETY DISCUSSION POINTS

SAFE USE OF MACHINERY

Conveyor cleaning, maintenance, removal of jams most dangerous

- Most common activities in which injuries occur involve cleaning a drum or other part of a conveyor, conveyor maintenance, regular activities such as sorting or packing near a conveyor, and recovering a jammed item from an unguarded pinch point hazard.
- Identify relevant legislation, standards, and guidelines that apply to workplace machinery. For example, the Occupational Health and Safety Act states the duties of an employer include:
 - Equipment, materials, and protective devices as prescribed are provided;
 - Equipment, materials, and protective devices are maintained in good condition;
 - Equipment, materials, and protective devices provided by the employer are used as prescribed.
- Describe hazards associated with your workplace machinery and how injury can occur.
- Review energy control lockout program for machine maintenance and servicing.
- Machine guarding overview: When machines are not properly guarded or locked out during maintenance, repair and other activities, workers can be exposed to a number of hazards that can result in serious injuries such as amputations of limbs or death. Hazards include the following.
 - Exposure to in-running nip hazards; getting caught in machinery and moving parts if equipment is not properly guarded.
 - Exposure to hazardous motion, such as rotating machine parts, if equipment is not properly locked and blocked during maintenance and repair.
- In terms of mobile equipment, a mill yard traffic management plan provides important guidance to workers, contractors, and visitors to ensure the safety of pedestrians and safe flow of all vehicles and equipment traffic.

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 – workers are encouraged to raise questions and concerns.

FALL PREVENTION

Common factors contributing to a fall

- Housekeeping – Obstructed work areas and routes, along with poor material storage, are a major contributing hazard in the workplace. It's important to frequently tidy work areas and have good lighting.
- Weather – As we move from season to season, one must always contend with heat, cold, ice, snow, rain, wind, or lightning. Discuss slip hazards in your workplace.
- Temporary fall hazards occur when a section of flooring or grating has been removed temporarily and barriers have not yet been installed.
- Inadequate guardrails – improvised, makeshift, incomplete guardrails are usually not high enough or strong enough.
- Noise – interferes with communication and the worker may not hear directions or warnings; also sudden loud noises may cause disorientation and loss of balance, contributing to a fall.
- Poorly maintained equipment – damaged ladders, missing scaffold components, malfunctioning elevated work platforms are all severe fall hazards.
- Choice of equipment – Always use the right tools for the job. If a scaffold is necessary – don't 'make do' with a ladder.
- Physical limitations – Fear of heights, fatigue, and certain medications can all lead to dizziness.
- Job deadlines – When the pressure is on, people are tempted to take shortcuts, skip personal protective equipment, and use the wrong tools for the job.
- Good housekeeping is key to a safe workplace, and important to prevent injuries to workers from slips, trips and falls, which account for nearly 20 per cent of all lost-time injury claims in Ontario.

A worker's personal workplace safety checklist may include:

- Appropriate footwear with good tread, properly laced
- Check work area to identify hazards; and fix or report hazards
- Follow safe work practices to avoid falls: use good housekeeping; pay attention to footing when carrying things; use guardrails on stairs; use appropriate equipment to reach high shelves; and maintain three-point contact on ladders, step stools, and equipment.