

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY SNAPSHOT FOR ONTARIO LOGGING SECTOR IN 2014



2,597

Full-time employees

3

Work-related fatalities

163

Total injuries

63

Lost-time injuries

6.28

Total injury rate per 100 workers

+5.0%

Change in injury rate from previous year

EVENTS RESULTING IN LOST-TIME INJURY OR ILLNESS

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



35%

Contact with objects or equipment
(struck by or caught in equipment)



25%

Falls
(majority of falls to lower level, e.g. from non-moving vehicle)



24%

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs)
(excessive physical effort, repetitive motion)



16%

All others
(exposure to harmful substances or environment explosion)

MOST COMMON LOST-TIME INJURIES

19

Struck by object, or caught in or compressed by equipment injuries, including being struck by a falling tree especially dead and rotted trees and limbs known as 'chicots'; caught in danger zone of mechanical harvesting equipment and compressed, pinched, or struck by running equipment or machinery.

15

Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs), including repetitive motion, bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting, overexertion in lifting, pulling, pushing, carrying or turning objects.

16

Falls, including falls from equipment and non-moving vehicles; jumping to lower level; falls on floors, walkways, and other surfaces; falls onto or against objects.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE



26

Noise-induced hearing loss

Workplace Safety and Insurance Board healthcare claims.

Source: WSIB Enterprise Information Warehouse as of March 31, 2015. RG 030 WSN Nov 2015

2010-2015: 13 FORESTRY-RELATED TRAUMATIC FATAL INJURIES

Every year, one to two Ontario forestry workers hit and killed by a falling tree or limb.

In the past five years, there have been 13 traumatic fatal injuries in the Ontario forestry industry. That's almost three per year. Most experienced forestry workers don't think it will happen to them, but regular – and potentially lethal – hazards like driving, cold weather, working alone, fog, visibility, chicots (dead, rotted trees), and dangerous machinery require the utmost vigilance.

ONTARIO LOGGING SECTOR HAS ONE OF HIGHEST FATALITY RATES IN PROVINCE

The logging sector – both conventional and mechanical logging – has one of the highest fatality rates in the province. The following list shows all logging-related fatalities over the past five years in Ontario.

- Worker struck and killed by a chicot that had been dislodged by a skidder.
- Millwright fatally injured when he was struck by a loader in a mill yard.
- Worker died after climbing into the back and getting lodged in the moving auger of a sanding truck.
- Cutter-skidder operator was felling a large tree and as the tree began to fall, the top broke off a nearby chicot which fell and fatally struck the cutter.
- Double fatality occurred when an excavator attempted to pull a logging truck out of a ditch; it slid on the incline of the ditch and fatally pinned two workers who had been standing nearby.
- Worker fatally struck by a falling tree while clearing a path for a skidder.
- Worker driving a tractor-trailer fatally injured following a crash with a tanker truck. There was dense fog at the time.
- Skidder operator fatally injury when he was struck by a falling tree while pulling logs from the bush.
- Tractor-trailer collided with a pickup truck that was turning left off a highway, fatally injuring the young worker.
- Worker struck by falling branch after dismounting his skidder.
- Worker fatally struck by a falling tree that a skidder was attempting to push down.
- Two half-ton vehicles hit head-on while travelling on a logging road, fatally injuring one worker.

WORKER INJURY RATE IN LOGGING SECTOR FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 2015 COMPARED TO 2014

	Jan-July 2015	Jan-July 2014
Lost-Time Injuries Injury or illness severe enough to require one or more days lost from work	28	35
Non Lost-Time Injuries Worker receives medical treatment but doesn't lose a day of work	84	86

DID YOU KNOW?

MECHANICAL LOGGING DEATHS AND INJURIES IN ONTARIO

- Six fatalities in past five years
- Last year, 73 lost-time injuries were caused when a worker was caught in or compressed by equipment – that's 30 percent of all lost-time injuries in logging sector
- Being caught by or compressed in machinery causes the most severe injuries – they are typically critical or fatal

CONVENTIONAL LOGGING DEATHS AND INJURIES IN ONTARIO

- Six fatalities in past five years
- Last year, 168 lost-time injuries were caused by a falling tree or limb that struck a worker – that's 70 percent of all lost-time injuries in logging sector
- Being struck by a falling tree or limb causes the most severe injuries – they are typically critical or fatal

HAZARD ALERT

BEWARE THE DANGER ZONE

WHAT HAPPENED?

Being struck by a tree is the number one cause of fatal injury for conventional loggers in Ontario. In the past five years, six Ontario loggers have lost their lives after being struck by a falling chicot. Chicots – which are dead trees and limbs – are notoriously unstable and known “widow-makers” Something as small as a gust of wind, vibration from nearby equipment, or the freezing and thawing of soil, can suddenly cause a chicot to come crashing down in seconds.

Being struck by or caught in equipment is the number one fatal injury for mechanical loggers in Ontario. In the past five years, seven Ontario loggers have lost their lives after being caught in or compressed by equipment. Fatal incidents include being hit by a flying piece of metal, being pinned by hydraulic equipment, and getting tangled in moving machinery parts. Motor vehicle incidents include being struck by a loader in a mill yard, as well as collisions on logging roads with other trucks, trailers or snowmobiles. An injury can turn fatal due to working conditions that include working alone, extreme cold, and remote locations.

HOW COULD THESE INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN PREVENTED?

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. These preventative measures can go a long way toward reducing the possibility of logging-related injuries and deaths.

- **Stay out of the danger zone.** If you are in the danger zone of a chicot, hang-up, or freestanding tree, you’re exposed to the danger of an uncontrolled falling tree, and contravening legal requirements to remove chicot hazards. The hazard must be addressed immediately. If you are near machinery, follow company communication procedures 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.
- **Safely fell chicots.** During harvesting, chicots must be safely lowered to the ground prior to felling in the vicinity. If a chicot is selected to remain standing for the purpose of a wildlife tree, then no trees can be harvested within its vicinity, i.e. a radius equal to at least the height of the surrounding stand.
- **Always follow proper zero energy machinery procedures,** including the lowering of attachments to the ground, and where necessary blocking or supporting hydraulic equipment and attachments. Most machinery injuries occur because the equipment is not in a zero energy state.



- **Worker certification.** 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. Equipment operators must be certified in the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities mandatory 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.

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.

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.

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: 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.

MECHANICAL LOGGING

- Always wear high-visibility personal protective equipment.
- Understand in detail how the danger zone moves while a machine with load is travelling or operating through its normal range of motion.
- 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!