



TOP 10 HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS IN SAWMILLS

As identified by workers, supervisors, and employers in the Ontario sawmill industry through a Ministry of Labour-facilitated risk assessment workshop in partnership with Workplace Safety North



1. Substance use: Under the influence of alcohol, prescription or other drugs.



2. Training issues: Gaps in following procedures.



3. Machine lock out, guarding: Not properly locking out or guarding equipment.



4. Age: Inexperience of new and young workers who don't see the dangers.



5. Psychosocial: Lack of focus, distraction of worker while performing duties.



6. Slips, trips, and falls: Falls on same or lower level, jumps to lower level.



7. Occupational disease: Loss of hearing, ringing in the ears.



8. Psychosocial: Stress, including job and family pressures.



9. Working from heights: Absence of engineered anchor points.



10. Machine lock out, guarding: Caught in or crushed by mobile equipment.

The internal responsibility system (IRS) is a system, within a workplace, where everyone shares responsibility for occupational health and safety that is appropriate to their role and function within the workplace. All workplace parties — including employers, managers, supervisors, and workers — need to do their part to raise awareness of risks, and follow and promote safety procedures to help make workplaces safer.