

Workplace Health and Safety Snapshot for Ontario Sawmill Sector in 2021



5,123

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



45%

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

(overexertion; repetitive motion; bodily reactions and exertion)



11%

Falls

(falls on same level, and falls to lower level)



11%

All other

(exposure to caustic, noxious, or exposure to caustic, noxious, allergenic substances, or noise; highway accident)

Most common lost-time injuries

60 **Contact with objects or equipment**, includes struck by or against falling, slipping, swinging, flying, moving or stationary object; struck by discharged object or substance; caught in or compressed by equipment or object; rubbed or abraded by foreign matter in eye.

44 **Bodily reaction and exertion**, includes injuries and illnesses resulting from overexertion in pulling, pushing, or lifting objects; repetitive use of tools, placing or moving objects; bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting; repetitive motion; overexertion; trip, step in hole or on object without fall.

15 **Falls**, includes fall to floor, walkway, or other surface; fall onto or against objects; fall down stairs, steps, or from scaffold or staging.

Top 3 Occupational Diseases

Based on approved WSIB claims for healthcare, being off work, loss of wages, or permanent disability.

26 **Noise-induced hearing loss.**

11 **Diseases of respiratory system**, viral infection; alveolitis, allergy,

5 **Injury and poisoning**, includes toxic effect of gases, fumes, vapour; burn of lower limb; heat stroke and sunstroke.

*Disease fatality claims with a fatality effective date of 2021. Source: WSIB Enterprise Information Warehouse as of March 31, 2022. NAICS: 321111, 321999. June 2022 WSN.



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For more detailed statistics and trends

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Overview of Joint Health and Safety Committee certification training

Focus on hazards specific to sawmills

JHSC Certification: Part One (three 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 (two 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 your 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

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.

About Workplace Safety North

Your local health and safety partner

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four health and safety associations in Ontario, and the only one headquartered in the north.

WSN provides province-wide government-approved workplace health and safety services for forest products and mining sectors, as well as businesses and communities across northern Ontario.

With health and safety specialists located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years.

WSN is a leading provider of health and safety services, and businesses and communities call upon WSN for expert advice and training. For more information, visit workplacesafetynorth.ca.



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