

Top Occupational Diseases Risks in Pulp and Paper Sector

Asbestosis is top risk

Based on the number of cases among workers in a specific industry group compared to other workers in the Occupational Disease Surveillance System. Sectors include: Pulp and paper mills, paper box and bag manufacturers, and miscellaneous paper converters.*



1. Asbestosis (lung disease caused by breathing in asbestos) - mostly in pulp and paper mills



5. Acute myocardial infarction (heart attack)



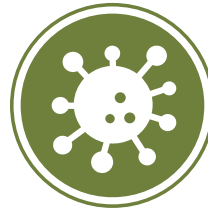
2. Carpal tunnel syndrome (numbness and weakness in the hands)



6. Raynaud's syndrome (decreased blood flow to hands or feet, often due to vibrating equipment or tools) - mostly in paper box and bag manufacturers



3. Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (lung disease with no defined cause) - mostly in pulp and paper mills



7. Colorectal cancer



4. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)



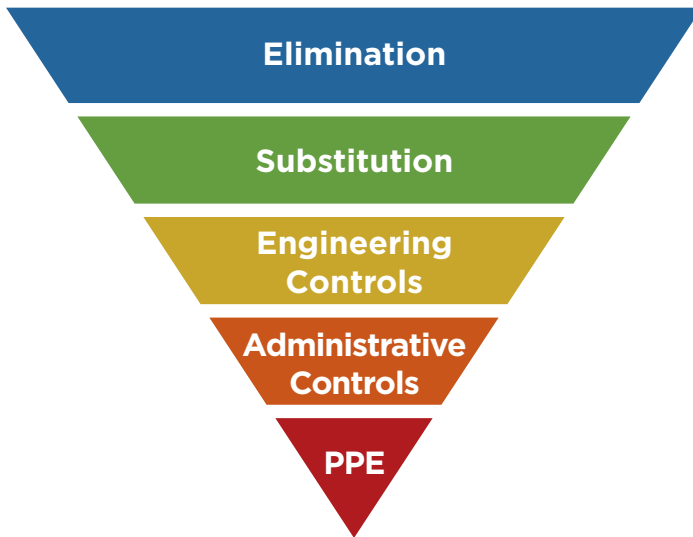
Noise-induced hearing loss (top disease based on approved WSIB claims, but not included in ODSS data)

For more information, please contact your WSN Health and Safety Specialist or visit workplacesafetynorth.ca

Occupational illness prevention

Industrial hygiene means making sure workplaces are safe by predicting, identifying, evaluating, and managing potential dangers that could harm workers' health. An occupational disease is a health problem caused by the work environment. It can be serious, cause disabilities, and even be fatal.

Hierarchy of controls



Related services

Industrial hygiene testing

Free training material on diesel emission hazards

Radon assessment

Workplace hazardous materials information system training (WHMIS)

About Workplace Safety North

Your health and safety partner

An independent not-for-profit, Workplace Safety North (WSN) is one of four sector-based health and safety associations in Ontario. Headquartered in northern Ontario, WSN administers the provincial mine rescue program and provides province-wide Ministry-approved workplace health and safety training and services for the mining and forest products industries.

*Data sources

Statistics are from the Occupational Cancer Research Centre's Occupational Disease Surveillance System (ODSS).

The system monitors disease outcomes among over two million Ontario workers. Poster rankings are based on increased risk of disease compared to other workers in the ODSS.

Health data come from a variety of sources:

- Ontario Cancer Registry (1964-2020)
- Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) (1999-2020)
- National ambulatory care (day surgery, emergency, walk-in clinics) (2006-2020)
- Discharge abstract database (in-patient hospitalizations) (2006-2020)

Not all diseases have been studied in the ODSS; for example, based on approved WSIB claims, noise-induced hearing loss is a top disease in the pulp and paper sector. Top-ranked diseases may change over time as the ODSS data and prevention controls continue to evolve.

Industry sectors included

Pulp and paper mills, paper box and bag manufacturers, and miscellaneous paper converters.

With health and safety specialists and mine rescue officers located across the province, WSN and its legacy organizations have been helping make Ontario workplaces safer for more than 100 years. A leading provider of health and safety training and consulting, businesses call upon WSN for expert advice and information. For more information, visit workplacesafetynorth.ca.

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