

Top 10 Root Causes of Environmental Hazards in Silviculture Sector

Falling dead trees is top health and safety risk

Root causes of combined environmental risks — dead trees, strong winds, heat stress, and wildlife — were identified by workers, supervisors, and employers in the Ontario silviculture industry through a root cause analysis workshop facilitated by Workplace Safety North.



1. Remote work locations limits connectivity



6. Lack of consistent sector-specific safety guidelines and resources



2. Severe weather conditions (wind, lightning) can affect emergency response



7. Worker turnover results in a high level of new and inexperienced personnel



3. Forest management practices increase exposure to danger trees



8. Inconsistent risk assessment of environmental hazards



4. Inconsistent application of work procedures during wind and weather events



9. Lack of safety program oversight results in higher level acceptance of risks



5. Inconsistent enforcement of safety practices due to tree planting camp culture



10. Fatigue, illness, and living conditions compromise ability to recognize hazards

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

Ontario online health and safety training for tree planters: SafePlanting.com

E-learning helps both new and experienced tree planters understand the challenges

This dynamic and interactive pre-employment e-learning program supplies new and experienced planters with a comprehensive overview of the hazards and necessary controls to do the work safely and productively.

Safeplanting.com is mobile-friendly. Participants can log in to the course from anywhere with an Internet connection, and managers can access administrative features from their preferred device.

The course includes a SafePlanting.com reference app—so planters can get health and safety information where they are planting, no cell signal required. The app can be downloaded from Google Play or the App Store and accessed any time—regardless of location.

Upon successful completion of the quizzes in all modules, a certificate will be issued confirming successful completion of the training.

About Workplace Safety North

Your local 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 provides province-wide government approved workplace health and safety training and services for the forest products and mining industries.

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.

Competent Supervisor

(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 Driving on Forest Roads

(Disponible en français)

Available in classroom and e-learning formats, this training course reviews the hazards of driving company, personal or recreational vehicles on logging roads. It covers the unique physical nature of these roads, how to travel safely on them, and how to prepare a vehicle and driver for travelling on them.

Mandatory Awareness Training

(Disponible en français)

All workplaces in Ontario covered under the Occupational Health and Safety Act are required to have their workers and supervisors complete a basic health and safety awareness training program. The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has provided free training material that meets the requirements set out in Ontario Regulation 297/13 - Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training.



Scan the QR code to learn more about silviculture sector risk-based research, or visit workplacesafetynorth.ca/industries/forest-products