

Workplace Hazards in Forestry and Logging

This fact sheet is for students undertaking work experience programs, and for their host employers. It can be used as a tool to assist with task planning, and to develop appropriate induction, training and supervision to minimise any risk to students while they are 'at work'.

Students must be given instruction, and must be supervised at all times. Consideration must always be given to hazards when allocating tasks. If any risk exists, students must NOT undertake the activity.

Hazard	Possible Harmful Effects	Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness	Preventative Action Students Can Take
Powered mobile plant including tractors, excavators, forklifts, trucks	Operator being rolled on, pinned underneath, crushed or struck: this could result in a fatality, or serious injury such as loss of limb	Students must NOT operate powered mobile plant	Students must NOT operate powered mobile plant
Tree felling, stacking	Falling trees could pin down and crush operators and bystanders resulting in fatality or serious injury	Students must NOT fell trees or work close to felling operations	Students must NOT fell trees or work close to felling operations
Powered hand tools including chainsaw	Laceration, amputation, sprains and strains through poor working postures and/or extended use of heavy tools	Students must NOT operate powered hand tools	Students must NOT operate powered hand tools
Noise and overhead hazards, vibration	Hearing loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain powered tools to reduce noise and vibration ◆ Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wear PPE (hearing protection, hard hat) provided
Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward working posture)	Musculoskeletal disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide mechanical aids ◆ Assess system of work ◆ Use team lifting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use mechanical aids provided ◆ Seek help when you think a team lift is required ◆ Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day
Heat, or cold/wet weather conditions	Heat rashes, heat cramps, heat stress, dehydration, loss of fine motor controls, sunburn, numbness, hypothermia, frostbite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide regular rest breaks, water, shade where practicable ◆ Re-schedule work if extreme weather conditions present risk ◆ Wear appropriate clothing and PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dress appropriately for the conditions ◆ Take scheduled breaks ◆ Drink water frequently in hot conditions
Fire	Physical burn, trauma, smoke inhalation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Implement fire response and emergency procedures ◆ Provide training on use of fire protection equipment ◆ Minimise ignition sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Know fire response and emergency procedures
Fatigue	Unsafe operation of non-powered and powered tools; likelihood of failure to follow safe working procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide equipment designed for the job, to reduce fatigue ◆ Limit work hours, provide rest breaks and rotate strenuous jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Take rest breaks when scheduled
Insects, snakes and vermin.	Bites, stings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Assess work location ◆ Provide appropriate PPE ◆ Provide First Aid Kit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Avoid potentially dangerous locations ◆ Wear PPE provided
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establish work place policy ◆ Provide staff briefings or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Report any concerns immediately

