

Frequency and Severity of accidents in Swedish industrial forestry

Carola Häggström¹, Skogforsk/Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Gun Lidestav, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Håkan Alm, Luleå University of Technology

Mechanization in forestry has changed industrial forestry work as well as the work environment of industrial forestry workers. Therefore, safety deficits and risks are no longer the same as in traditional manual forestry work. However, small-scale forestry workers and farmers still apply more traditional working methods. In the Official Statistics of Sweden one cannot distinguish industrial from non-industrial forestry workers accidents. We wanted to investigate risks associated with industrial forestry work since industrial forestry workers differ from non-industrial in what they do and how they may be approached from a safety perspective. Therefore, a mail survey was directed to machine contractors and machine operators in large-scale forestry. We used severity and frequency as measurements of risks in productive versus non-productive time. Our results showed that many accidents occurred during maintenance but severe accidents also happen during machine operation.

Keywords: accident prevention, forest machine work, industrial forestry, mail survey, safety.

¹ Corresponding author, Dept. of forest resource management, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SE- 901 83 Umeå, PhD student within Forest Industrial Research School on Technology (FIRST), email: Carola.Haggstrom@slu.se