

Abstract for a conference

Title: Brushcutting work investigated to improve working conditions

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Abstract (max 10 lignes)

Difficulties in recruiting silvicultural workers combined with high employee turnover induce labor shortages in many countries. Sustainable solutions are needed to reverse this trend. In the past 12 years, we have studied manual brushcutter productivity, physical workload and cognitive workload in operational settings in Québec (Canada). For regeneration release operations, it was determined that productivity is best related to competing vegetation abundance (cover and density), and to obstacles lying in the field (woody residue, stumps, stones, holes and bumps). Energy expenditure during brushcutting work was classified as high according to Québec standards. Physical workload was often higher than the proposed safe values. Cognitive workload and risk of accidents increased with the abundance of vegetation hiding crop trees and obstacles. These findings could be useful to improve both work organization and training programs, and to adjust piece-rates.

Keywords

Time study, labor, silvicultural work, vegetation management, physical workload, cognitive work.