

Health risks in forest fuel production

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Case studies

Work environment have been analysed during 30 field studies in Sweden and Finland during 2010 and 2011. Harvest, transport, chipping, quality control and maintenance when taking care of logging residues, stumps and small-dimension trees are included. PIMEX (Picture Mix Exposure) combines videoed work task and measurements of exposure.

Forest fuel production has increased during the last decade. Forestry is a risky branch. Raised knowledge about specific risks in forest fuel production is urgent.



Chipping is risky

Place the chipping equipment so flying objects can't hit persons. Turn off the chipping unit before removing stucked objects.

Noise

It can be noisy, especially when chipping and working in uninsulated cabs. Keep door and windows closed, and use hearing protection when noisy.

Whole body vibrations

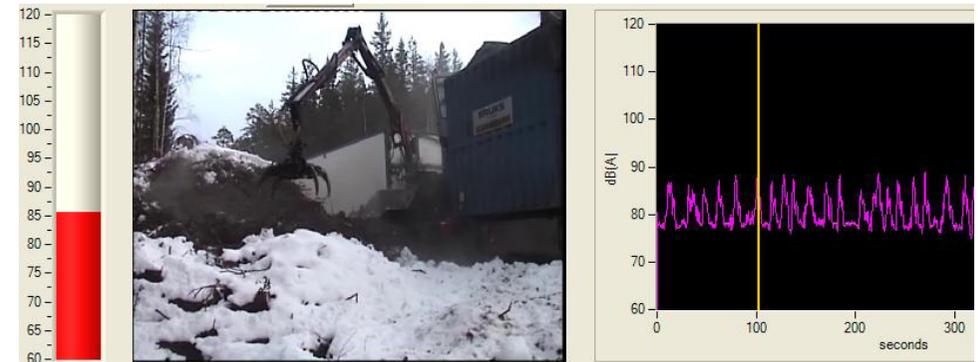
Drive smoothly to reduce vibrations, jolts and hits. Smooth crane moves and good ground contact also reduce vibrations.

Dust and mould occurs when handling wood parts and wood chips. Keep door and windows closed, and change input air filter regularly.

Insufficient communication between different drivers. Plan the work together with others. Share local knowledge about technical and organizational solutions.

Own constructions. Absence of manuals for service and maintenance, problems to enter the cabin and to reach service and maintenance points, and small insufficient cabins are identified. Use checklists when assembling a vehicle.

Noise – PIMEX



Vibration X – PIMEX



Dust – PIMEX

