

Leadership & Safety Matters in the Forest



**PACIFIC NORTHWEST AGRICULTURAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER**
farming • fishing • forestry



**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
CONTINUING EDUCATION**
ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL
HEALTH SCIENCES



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION





Leadership & Safety Matters

Learning Objectives

- List common injuries and illnesses
 - Describe why safety, health and well-being matters in the forest
 - Describe the importance of safety culture and leadership skills
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Forestry Services Thinning & Brushing Activities





High-Risk Work Environment

- Injury and illness rates of workers in forestry services are 2-3 times that of the average US worker (US BLS)
 - Fatality rates for forestry workers are 10 times higher than the average (US BLS)
 - Increasing number of non-English speaking workforce
 - Remote locations with use of chain saws, falling trees, heavy lifting, moving machinery and vehicles, fast work pace, weather extremes
 - Psychosocial hazards such as work demands, physical exhaustion, fatigue, and stress
 - Lack of workforce training
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WA Common Injuries

Cuts and bruises

Machinery-related injuries

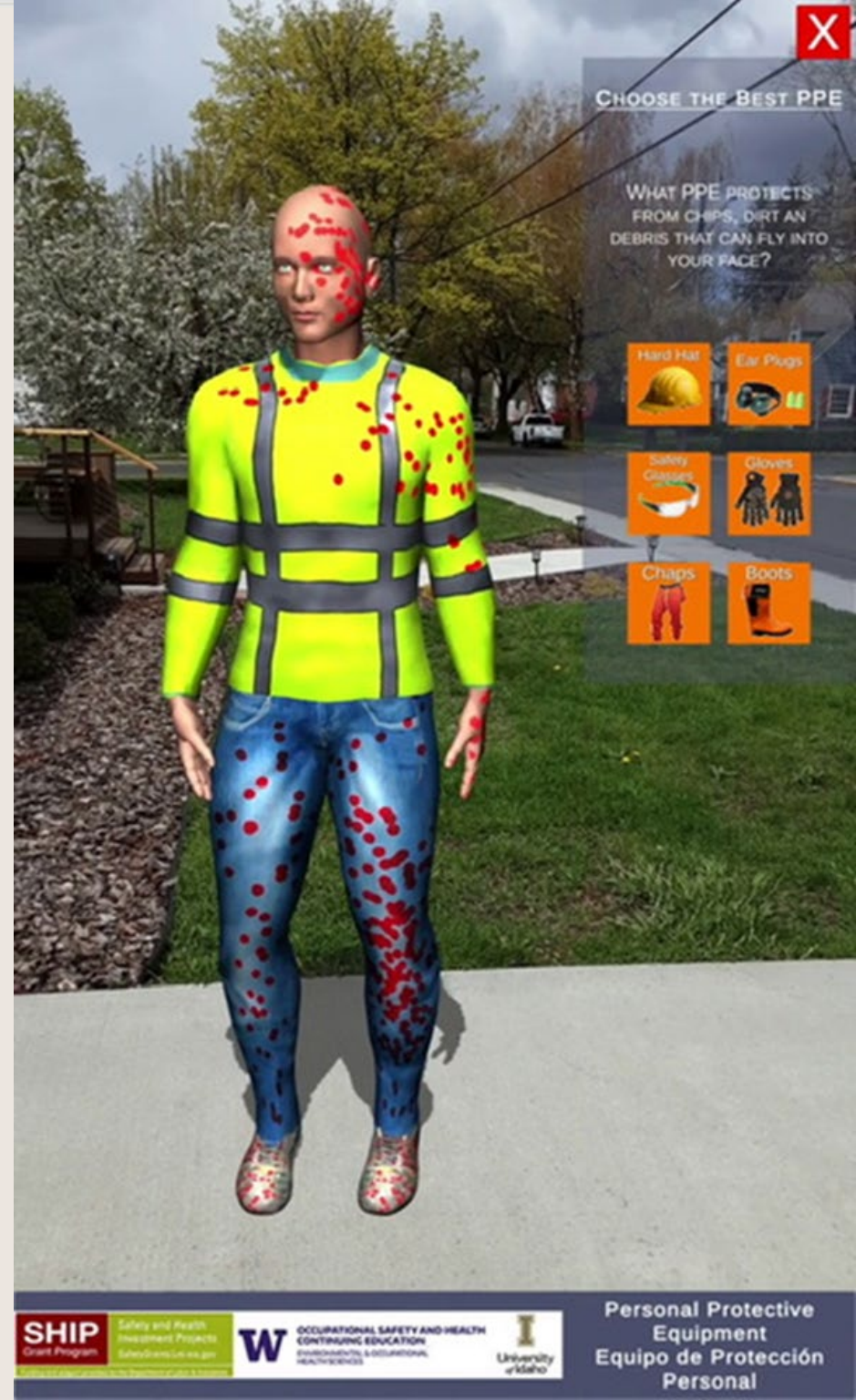
Back strain, shoulder and other musculoskeletal disorders

Broken bones and crushed limbs

Noise-induced hearing loss

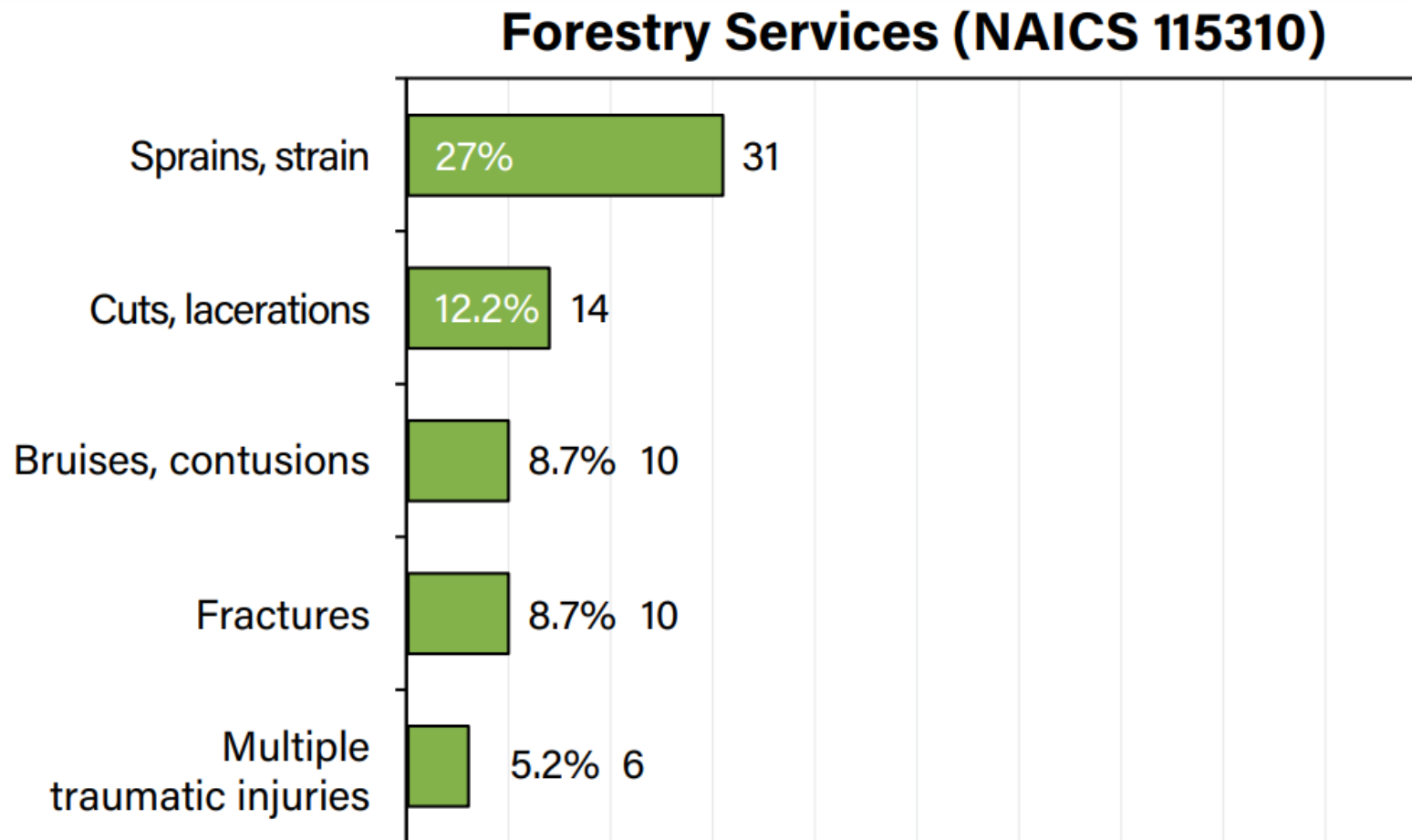


Source: UW DEOHS CE ACE Training



Nature of Injury & Disease

Oregon, 2022



Source: Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services, Report: Oregon Forest Industry: A Comparison of Occupational Safety and Health Measures, 2022



ACTIVITY

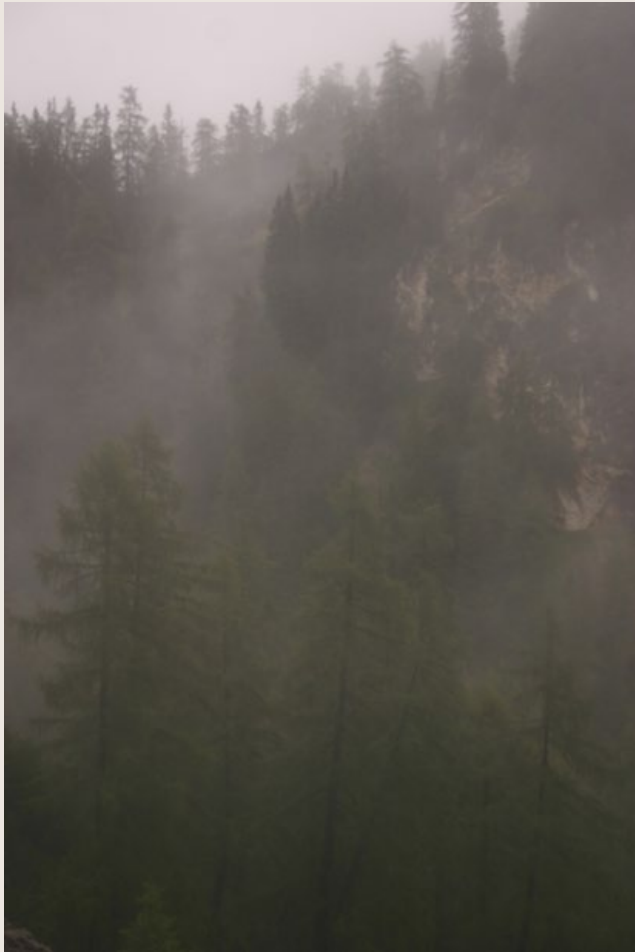


Group Discussion

What are some reasons for why this happens?



Slips, Trips and Falls



Struck-By-Object



Working too Close together



Back Strain

Piling heavy brush



Jumping



Hard Ground



Lifting & Hauling



Chainsaw Kickback

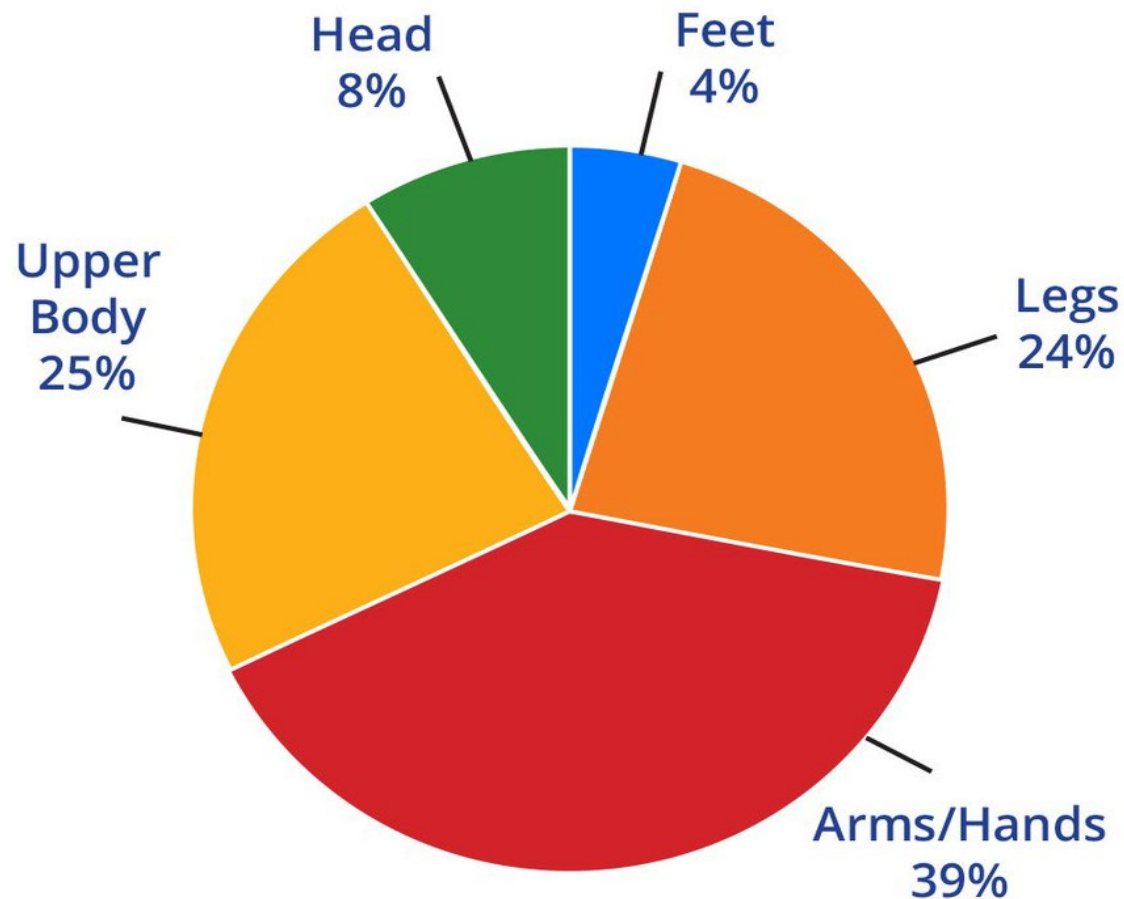
Saw tip hitting an object



Reaching too high



Claims Data (WA) Associated with Chainsaw Use



Source: Washington State Labor & Industries workers' compensation claims system associated with chainsaw use (NAICS 113 and NAICS 1153 & OIICS Source code 7221) from 2011-2021

Create a 'Fatigue Meter'

Work Stressors: Fatigue, Stress, Work Load, Pace



Employers are responsible for managing the risk of harm at work when workers become fatigued. Supervisors should encourage breaks during the day.

Knowledge Check



What are three common injuries in the forest?



ACTIVITY



TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT...

What has an injury cost you?





Why Safety, Health and Well-Being

- Prevent injuries and illnesses
- Increase productivity and morale
- Cost savings
- Improve organizational communication
- Regulatory compliance
- Specialized machinery and equipment
- Raise awareness and knowledge on how to handle emergencies
- Advance Safety culture
- Increase situational Awareness



Safety Culture:

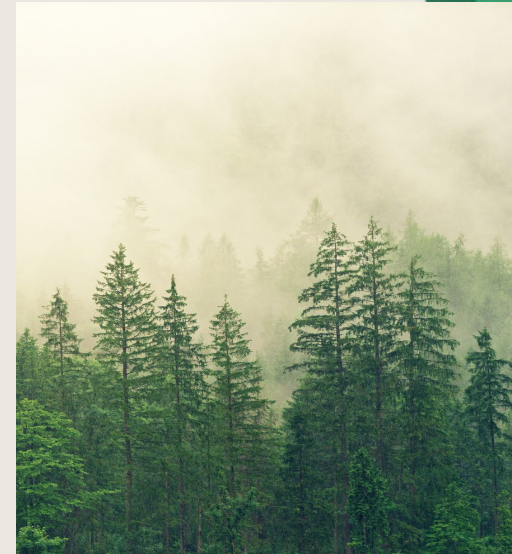
“Safety culture is a concept that describes how safety is perceived, valued and prioritized in an organization.”

- Stian Antonsen



Safety First, Every Step of the Way

- Leadership Commitment
- Shared Responsibility
- Open Communication
- Continuous Improvement
- Ongoing Training and Education
- Trust and Accountability





Safety Culture Begins with Leadership

- Leadership is an ability to influence and guide others towards achieving a common goal.
- Safety culture is everyone's responsibility, not just the managers or supervisors.
- Every action, decision, and conversation can influence safety outcomes.



ACTIVITY



Group Activity: Leading for Safety

You are supervising a forestry crew working to thin a section of timber before the end of the day to meet a tight contract deadline. The crew is well-trained, includes workers of varying experience levels and ages. As the day ends, production pressure is mounting, and the crew races to finish on time.

Alex is a new worker that is getting used to the pace of the work. Earlier, you overheard a seasoned worker named Manny tell him, "If we don't get this done by the end of the day, we won't meet our contract." You think Alex is being pressured to keep up with the rest of the team.



ACTIVITY



Discussion Questions:

1. As a supervisor, how would you recognize if Alex feels pressured to work too quickly? What steps can you take to help Alex balance the pressure of meeting deadlines with the need to follow safety protocols?
2. What role do seasoned workers like Manny play in shaping the safety culture? What is your experience with how supervisors respond to work schedules?
3. How can we all work to balance productivity with best practices to ensure safety is never compromised?

Knowledge Check



What are three things you can do to improve safety culture?

What is one action you can take to lead by example and improve safety in the workplace?



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