

# FORESTRY SECTOR

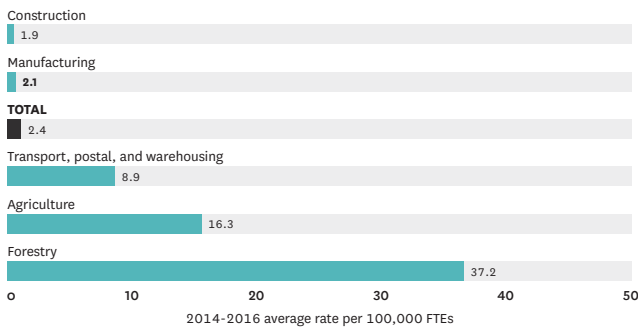
## WHY THE FOCUS ON FORESTRY?

The Strategy’s vision is that work is healthy and safe for everyone in New Zealand. Its goals and priorities focus everyone’s effort on what will make the biggest impact to reduce harm and on building capacity to do this well.

The Strategy places a focus on improving health and safety in high risk sectors such as forestry, and on developing and embedding best practice health and safety tailored to the needs of workers and businesses in sectors.

## Forestry has high harm rates

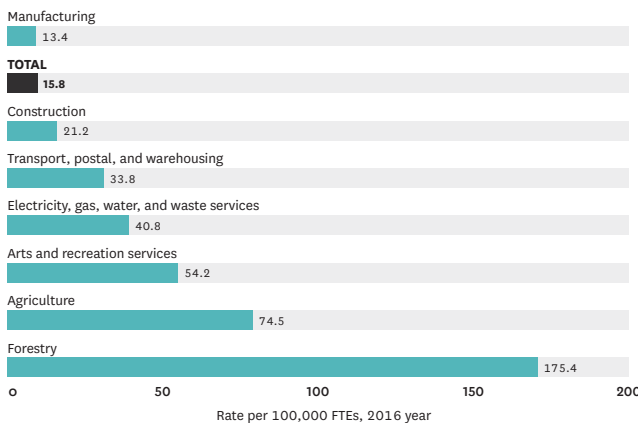
Traditionally forestry has been New Zealand’s most dangerous industry on an injury rate per worker basis. Although there have been some big improvements, we need to keep up the momentum.



**FIGURE 2:** Fatal work-related injury, selected industries  
Source: Stats NZ, WorkSafe

## Fatality and injury

Although forestry has seen a decrease in the rate of injury over time, it is still high. In the year to December 2017, 141 injuries resulted in more than a week away from work in forestry, and there were 6 fatalities in the year from July 2017 – June 2018



**FIGURE 2:** Serious non-fatal work-related injury, selected industries  
Source: Stats NZ, WorkSafe

## How can I use the Strategy?

**CHECK OUT THE PRIORITY AREAS IN THE STRATEGY BELOW FOR ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO REDUCE HARM AND BUILD CAPABILITY.**



### Businesses with greater need: sectors with highest harm and small businesses

Sectors can use their influence, expertise and insights to improve the health and safety performance of individual businesses. Sector bodies have a key role in driving the behaviour of businesses at an industry level.

Forestry is a diverse sector, from small family-owned businesses, to big companies and iwi commercial interests. To identify businesses with greater need in their own sector, sector bodies can ask: Who are the players in our sector? How are small businesses doing? Who needs help to reduce harm? Once industries know where the gaps are, they can develop action plans to address them.

In forestry, the Forest Industry Safety Council (FISC), a sector body that includes forest owners, contractors, small foresters, ACC, WorkSafe, unions and workers, has created Safetree – a website with tools, information and data on harm in forestry.



### Encouraging leaders at all levels to integrate health and safety

The Strategy encourages people to work together. It aligns roles and responsibilities so that everyone is clear about how they can work together. The forestry sector is an example where strong sector leadership is translating into progress, beginning by taking ownership that things need to change, then working together on critical risks and increasing the industry’s safety maturity.

FISC is a key example of leaders in the forestry sector working together across the system to integrate health and safety, bringing together forest owners, managers, contractors, small foresters, ACC, WorkSafe, unions and workers to improve health and safety in the forestry industry.



### Workers with greater need: Māori and other workers at greater risk

The Strategy encourages everyone to work to reduce harm among the workers at greatest risk, including Māori, young workers, older workers and migrant workers. The forestry sector has the highest proportion of Māori workers, and many younger workers.

An example of cross-sector work that is already underway is the Maruiti Forestry Pilot by WorkSafe, ACC, local forestry companies and contractors, and Ngāti Porou. This is a kaupapa Māori approach that shows the success of engaging Māori workers on Māori terms.



### Enable workers to be represented, engaged and participate

Worker engagement, participation and representation is a priority under the Strategy. Workers can help to identify risks and to assess practical ways to eliminate or minimise risks. Businesses can consider if they are engaging their workers in the most appropriate way. Under the Strategy, everyone has a role to play, and workers and their representatives can advise on forms of engagement.

In forestry, workers often engage and participate in health and safety in less formal ways. The Health and Safety Attitudes and Behaviours Survey describes workers' opinions about different types of worker engagement. WorkSafe also has case studies on best practice worker engagement, including in forestry (see the link below). FISC is also actively working on how to build worker engagement.

Worker representatives and unions have a strong role in reducing harm. First Union is active in Forestry and has a Forestry Workers network. First Union is part of the Council of Trade Unions (CTU), which also helps build the capacity of worker representatives, for example through its WorkSafeReps training courses.



### Better management of work-related health, including physical and mental health

The Strategy encourages sectors to work together to find the areas where harm is occurring the most, to make sure everyone's effort is on making the biggest difference to reduce harm. In forestry, this includes work-related health harm as well as the risk of acute injuries. The main causes of acute injuries are being hit by moving objects; slips, trips and falls; and vehicle incidents.

Work-related health needs to be understood in context. Forestry workers go to work with a range of health conditions that reflect, in part, differences in New Zealand society and they go home from work with conditions that are directly related to their job. Underlying health conditions include heart disease, early onset diabetes and high blood pressure. Impairment from drug and alcohol use is also a risk that needs to be managed to reduce the risk of harm on forestry work sites. Depression, bullying and peer pressure can be present too.

Sector bodies, businesses, workers, worker representatives, unions and the wider community can start by identifying the work-related health risks in their workplace. In forestry, key work-related health risks include those from the use of hazardous substances in planting and silviculture, noise-induced hearing loss, impairment from fatigue and even dehydration. Musculoskeletal issues like lower back complaints and bad knees can also be an issue.

Once the risks are known, everyone has a role in managing them to reduce harm, including agencies. Safetree offers specific tools and guidance for forestry. The Health Promotion Agency's WellPlace is a tool for wellbeing in the workplace. The Heart Foundation's Healthy Families provides information on wellbeing for workers and workplaces. Locally, Bay of Plenty Lakes District Public Health/ Toi te Ora provides WorkWell, a workplace wellbeing tool.



### Lift capability of health and safety practitioners

The Strategy encourages everyone to build their capability to manage risks. In forestry, Safetree's worker competency certificates and contractor certification help build capability in the sector, as do the training, apprenticeships and information provided by independent training organisations like Competenz.

Forestry owners and managers need to have access to good health and safety advice. Health and safety specialists, such as HASANZ, the umbrella organisation representing workplace health and safety professions in New Zealand, can help lift capability across the sector and advise on action plans.



### Develop and share data and insights to improve decision making

Sectors can build capability to manage health and safety risks by developing and sharing better data and insights to improve decision making. Safetree is an example of how government, industry, business and workers can work across a sector to improve data by publishing analysis from the Industry's Incident Recording Information System, which captures data on critical risk areas in forestry. Statistics New Zealand, WorkSafe and the ACC also provide injury data.

Surveys, such as the Health and Safety Attitudes and Behaviours Survey, can identify where progress is being made, and what is working best for each sector, as well as to identify gaps that require filling.

<https://worksafe.govt.nz/data-and-research/research/attitudes-and-behaviours-survey-2017/>.

### Where do I go for more help?

**Safetree:** [www.safetree.org.nz](http://www.safetree.org.nz)

**WorkSafe:** [www.worksafe.govt.nz](http://www.worksafe.govt.nz)

**FISC:** [www.fisc.org.nz](http://www.fisc.org.nz)

**First Union – forestry:** [www.firstunion.org.nz/transport-and-logistics/wood-and-forestry](http://www.firstunion.org.nz/transport-and-logistics/wood-and-forestry)

**Competenz (training):** [www.competenz.org.nz](http://www.competenz.org.nz)

**Forestry Industry Contractors Association:** [www.fica.org.nz/](http://www.fica.org.nz/)

**Forestry Owners Association:** [www.nzfoa.org.nz/](http://www.nzfoa.org.nz/)

**Log Transport Safety Council:** <https://logtruck.co.nz/>

**Te Uru Rakau – Ministry of Primary Industries:** [www.mpi.govt.nz/teururakau/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/teururakau/)

**Ministry of Health – Healthy Families:** [www.healthyfamilies.govt.nz/#home-2](http://www.healthyfamilies.govt.nz/#home-2)

**Heart foundation:** [www.heartfoundation.org.nz/wellbeing](http://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/wellbeing)

**Health Promotion Agency – WellPlace:** <https://wellplace.nz/>

**Case study on worker engagement:** <https://worksafe.govt.nz/the-toolshed/case-studies/wepr-case-studies/kimberly-contractors-forestry/>