OCTOBER 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2022

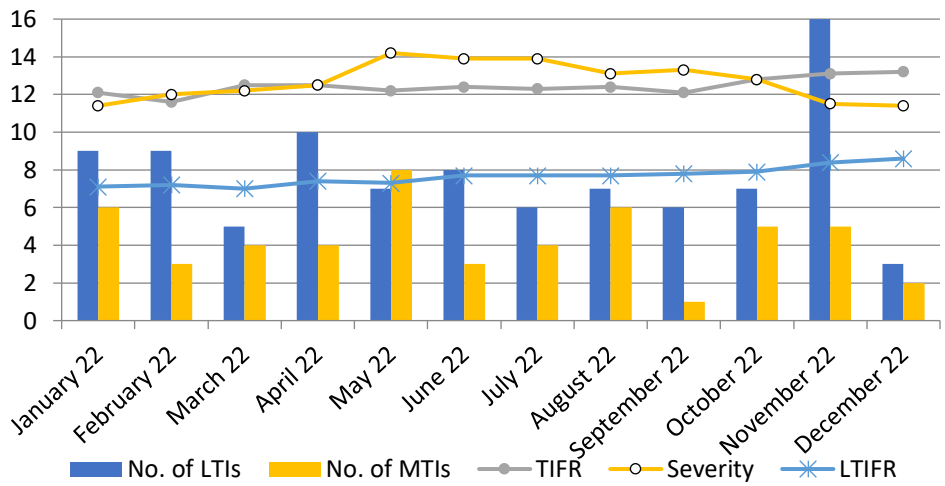

Figure 1. Trends in Lost Time Injuries (LTIs), Medical Treatment Injuries (MTIs), Total Incident Frequency Rate (TIFR), Severity and Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR)

November 2022 exhibited a peak of 16 lost time injuries followed by a steep drop in December 2022 to 3 lost time injuries. As in previous quarters, medical treatment injuries have fluctuated widely. The total incident frequency rate (TIFR) has risen slightly in the last quarter of 2022. Severity (average days lost per lost time injury) has shown a steady decreasing trend to December 2022 after a long-term trend of increasing to May 2022. The lost time injury frequency rate (lost time injuries per million hours worked) has started to climb in the last quarter of the year after remained steady throughout the July – September quarter.

CRITICAL RISK AREA ANALYSIS

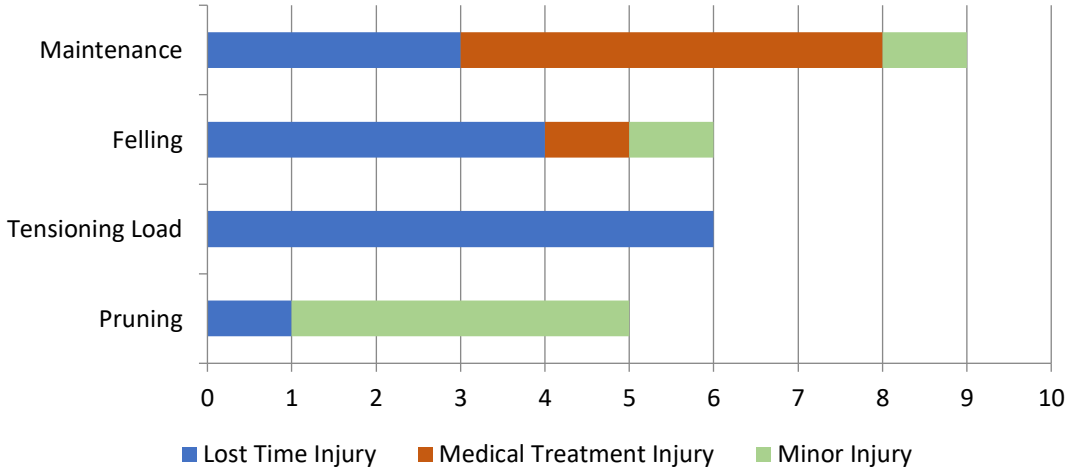

Figure 2. Critical Risk Area Summary

The critical risk area with the highest number of injury incidents was maintenance. Of the 9 maintenance injuries, three were lost time injuries: puncture wound in the hand from a metal burr while changing a harvester chain; a cut lower leg from the delimbing knife on a harvester head when climbing up to uncouple a hydraulic ram; and a metal filing blown into the eye during chain sharpening. There were five were medical treatment injuries: two cut fingers and a cut hand, a cut lower leg and a forest worker losing consciousness). One finger injury was the result of the spanner slipping while tightening the chainsaw chain. The other finger injury was a cut on a sprag hidden in mud being pulled out from digger tracks. The lower leg injury resulted from slipping over onto a branch while walking out to get a replacement hydraulic hose. The brief loss of consciousness event happened while refuelling a chainsaw.

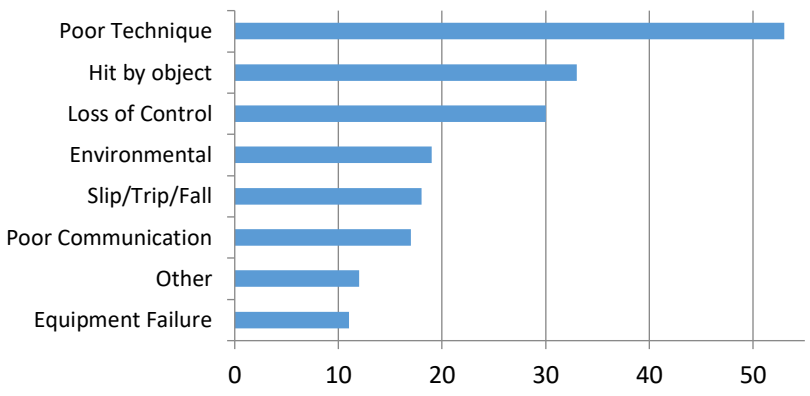

Figure 3. Recorded Incident Cause

'Poor Technique' was the most reported cause of incidents for the sixth quarter in a row with 53 reports. Poor technique incidents were reported in 27 log transport operations, 18 harvesting operations and 7 in silviculture operations.

'Hit by Object' events (33) occurred most frequently in harvesting operations with 22 reports. Most were logs, trees or branches hitting machines causing propert damage but no injury.

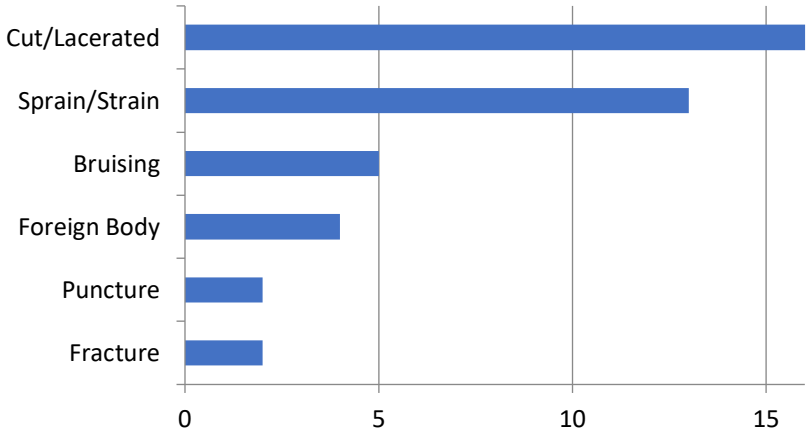

Figure 4. Recorded Injury Type

There were 16 'Cut/Lacerated' injuries with most being to the hands and fingers (9 injuries) and the face (3 injuries). The most serious injury was a chainsaw laceration to the face from kickback. This resulted in stitches and two weeks off work.

Thirteen 'Strain/Sprain' injuries were reported with five to the legs, four to the hands and arms and three to the back. The injury resulting in the greatest time off work was elbow pain from the bar releasing while twiching down a log trailer chain.

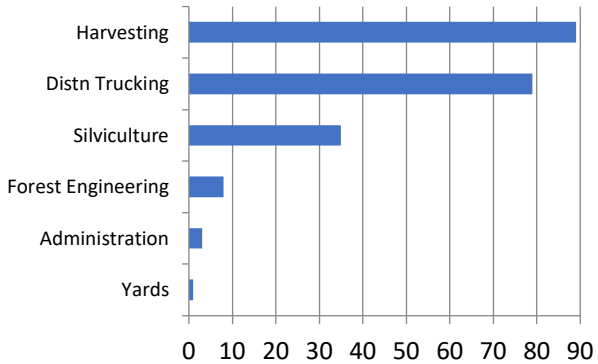

Figure 5. Total Incidents by Operation

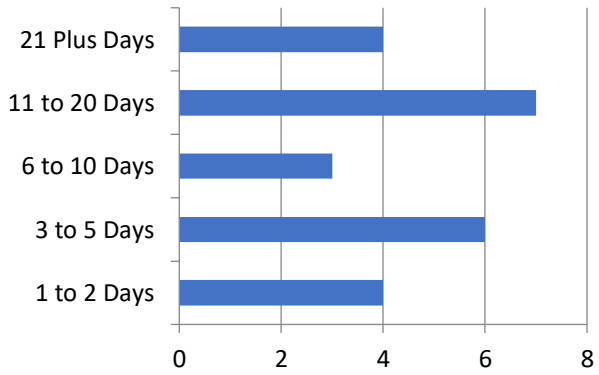

Figure 6. Severity – Lost Time Days

Most incidents occurred during harvesting operations with 89 reported. Hauler operations had the greatest number of incidents with 58. Within hauler operations loading was the task with the most reports (11). Other hauler incidents reported were related to hauler driving (6), other extraction machine operating (8), maintainence (7), felling (5) and driving (5).

The average number of days lost per injury was 10, which is unchanged since the last quarter. The most serious injury occurred when a processor operator lost his footing on the skid site, put out his arm to brace his fall and his arm popped out of its socket resulting in 225 hours lost.

FELLING INJURIES

During felling there were four recorded lost time injuries, three were in thinning to waste:

Chainsaw kickback to face while trimming limbs during thinning to waste – 189 hours lost
Squashed finger under rear hand guard of chainsaw when slipped on steep grass in clearing – 40 hours lost
Hit by broken limb that fell from the canopy as tree was being felled – 36 hours lost
Faller felled a heavy tree which caused ground movement. A nearby spar broke and hit him on the helmet resulting in concussion – 24 hours lost

NEAR HIT ANALYSIS

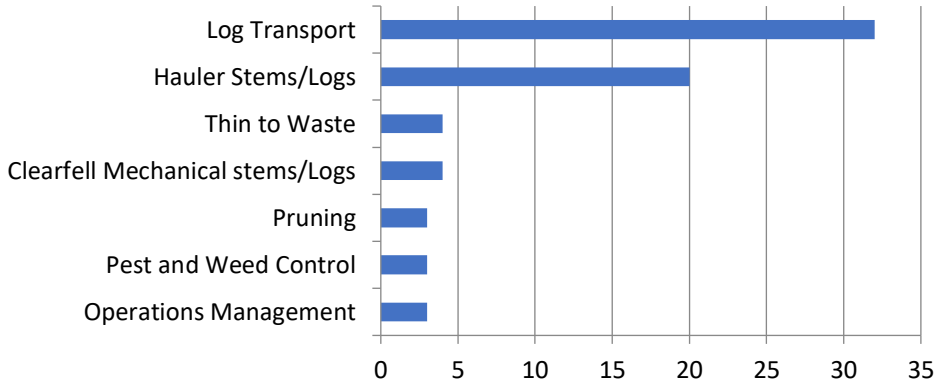

Figure 7. Near Hits by Operation

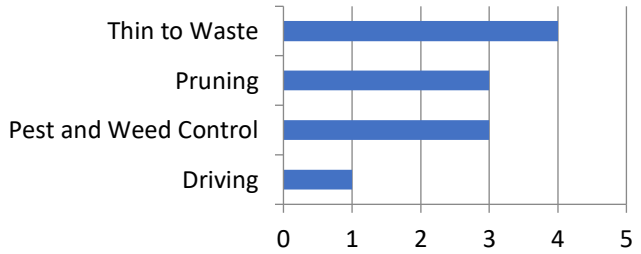

Figure 8. Silviculture Near Hits by Operation

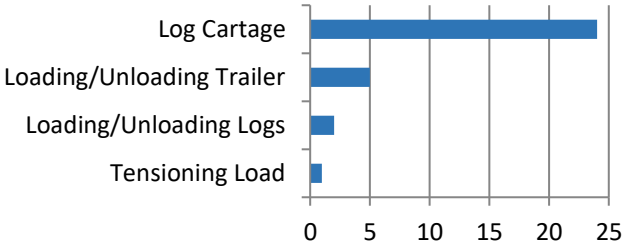

Figure 9. Log Transport Near Hits

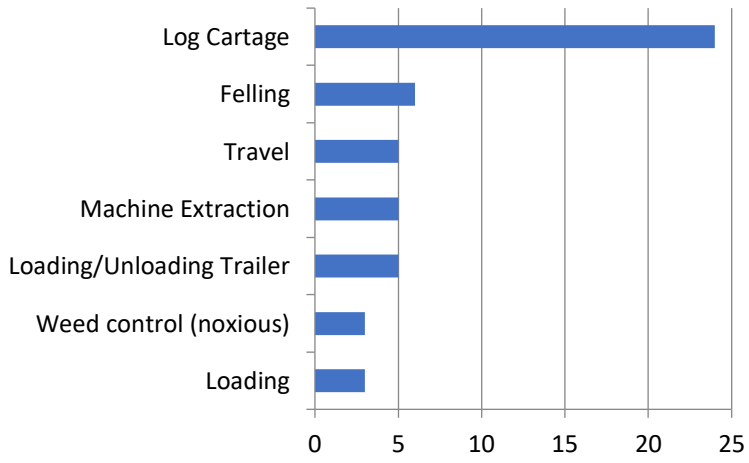

Figure 10. Near Hits by Task

The most reported near hit events were during log cartage tasks with a total of 24 incidents. Communication factors were identified in six of the events including missing distance markers on forest roads, trucks not radioing their location and radio calls missed. Loss of traction was reported in six events where slippery road surfaces were encountered. There were eight near hit reports of log loads found to have moved when checked.

There were six reported near hit events during felling. Three events related to communication where people (in thinning) or vehicles (in clearfell) came too close to felling operations. The remaining three felling near hit events were all in thinning and were fallers slipping over or almost being hit by falling trees and debris.