FOREST INDUSTRY SAFETY COUNCIL
TOGETHER TOWARDS ZERO

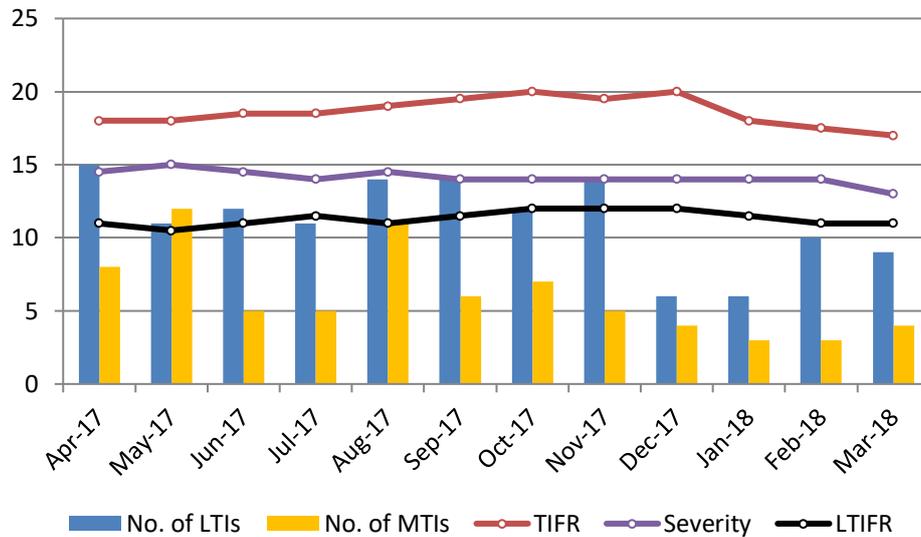## 1 JANUARY 2018 – 31 MARCH 2018

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

The total injury frequency rate has steadily decreased over the last three months from almost 20 injuries per million hours worked in December 2017 to approximately 17 injuries per million hours worked. Numbers of lost time injuries were higher in February, compared to January which correlates with operational requirements over the holiday period. The lost time incident frequency rate has dropped off somewhat. Similarly, Severity, (average days lost per lost time injury) has been progressively declining. Medical treatment injuries are beginning to rise in March from being relatively low in January and February.
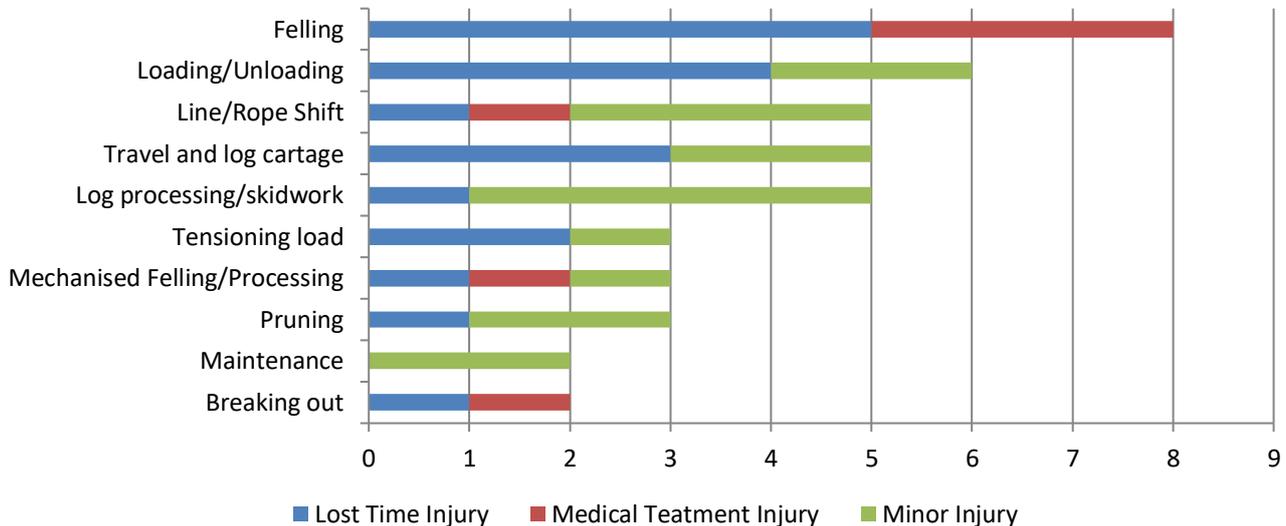
CRITICAL RISK AREA ANALYSIS

Figure 2. Critical Risk Area Incident Summary

The critical risk area with the highest number of incidents was again felling followed by loading and unloading operations. Lost time felling injuries - two involved being cut on the leg as the result of chainsaw kickback, five injuries were the result of slipping or tripping over, and two were struck by the tree. There were six lost time unloading/loading incidents – two were the result of slipping or tripping, two involved being struck by tools/machine components (drawbar and twitch), and two injuries were muscle strains as a result of the physical demands of the job (shoulder strains). There were five lost time rope/line shift-related injuries. Of these five, breaker outs sustained minor injuries in three of them. One incident was associated with machinery moving the backline.
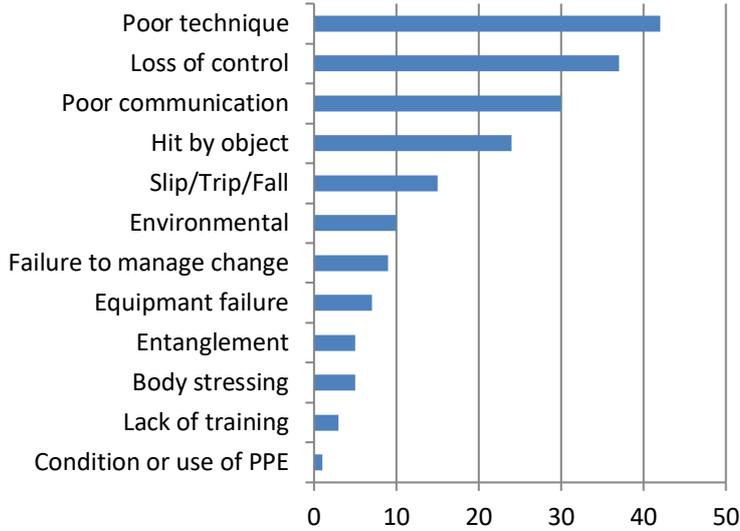
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Figure 3. Recorded Incident Cause

The largest number of reported incidents (43) were categorised as "Poor Technique". Within this category, 25 incidents were related to trucking and loading - mostly reports of vehicle mishaps such as cutting corners and loading issues like logs slipping or being dropped causing damage to vehicles or equipment. The remaining task areas associated with "Poor Technique" were falling (5), skidwork (11), thinning to waste (1), and pruning (1). There were 38 incidents caused by "Loss of Control" events. 24 "Loss of Control" events involved machinery or mechanised harvesting or mechanised processing, which reflects the increase in these types of operations across the industry. 18 were associated with mechanised operations on the skid. "Loss of Control" events associated with truck driving and travelling were highly represented in this category as well (11). There were 32 "Poor Communication" incidents recorded.
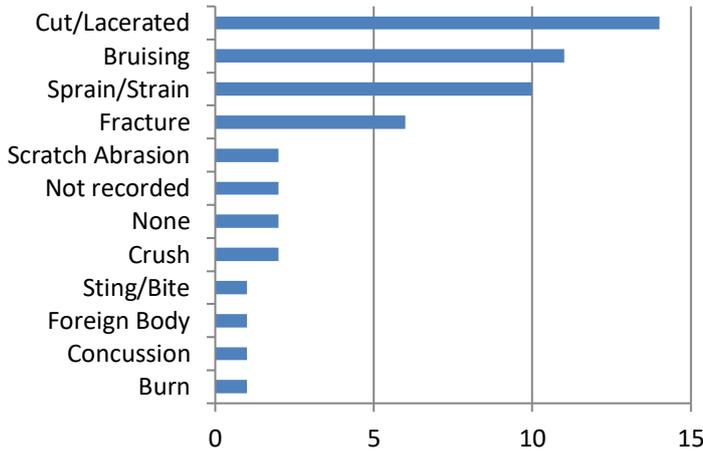

Figure 4. Recorded Injury Type

"Cuts/Lacerations" were the most common injury (14 in total) with the majority (5) being due to coming into contact with the saw chain when slipping over or while working. Other causes of "Cuts/Lacerations" injuries were slipping and tripping on machinery or uneven ground/equipment, two involved being hit by ropes, and one incident of being hit in the face with a chain while loading. "Bruising" injures were mainly caused by slipping over on uneven ground/surfaces (5). Several reports (3) were associated with travelling including two head-on collisions.
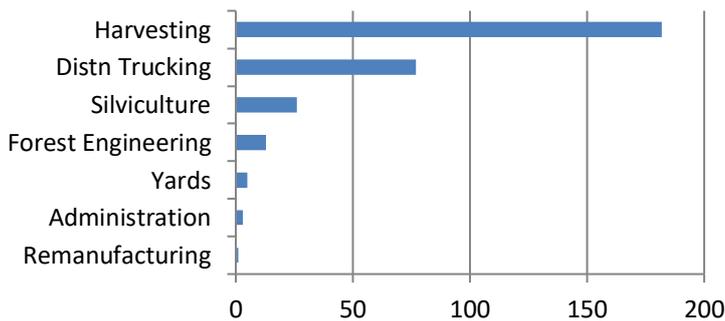

Figure 5. Total Incidents By Operation

Figure 6. Severity – Lost Time

As with last Quarter, most reported incidents occurred during harvesting followed by trucking and silviculture. In comparison with the previous Quarter, trucking decreased slightly whereas both silviculture and harvesting markedly reduced by 49 and 157 events respectively.
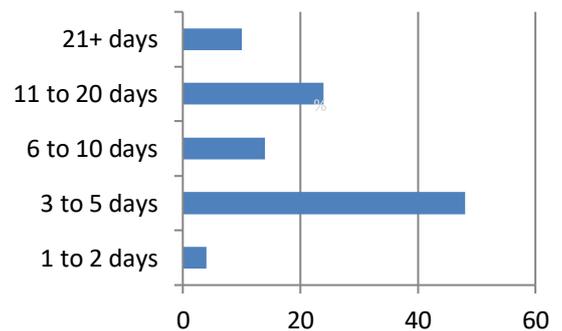
The average number of days lost per injury was 10, which was 1 more days than reported for the last Quarter. The number of days lost ranged from one to 38 days.

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MAINTENANCE

Of the critical risk areas, there were six recorded incidents associated with loading and unloading resulting in 548 lost hours. Several of these events involved serious injuries.

| |
|---|
| Truck driver was struck by twitch bar while tightening the chains. |
| When setting up bolsters to get loaded, the driver slipped when pushing bolster up and felt pain in his right shoulder. He continued working but his shoulder did not get better over the following days requiring time off to recover. |
| Truck driver has hurt his right shoulder while throwing his chains over his load. |
| Standing on a log in a safe zone while trailer was being loaded doing piece count. The driver put his foot down on to a piece of bark that he thought was attached to the log. He slipped and fell off log landing on his knees. |
| Truck driver climbed onto truck to try and release the stuck belly chain. As she was climbing down, she slipped off from the second row of logs and fell, landing on the left side of her body on the deck and her legs on the mudguard. |
| Loader lifted trailer off the truck, driver reached out to grab drawbar handle to pull the drawbar around. The trailer moved slightly and the drawbar popped out towards driver's right hand, hitting ring finger. The driver thought nothing of it and continued to work. Over the day the hand become swollen and started to be painful requiring an x-ray. |

NEAR HIT ANALYSIS
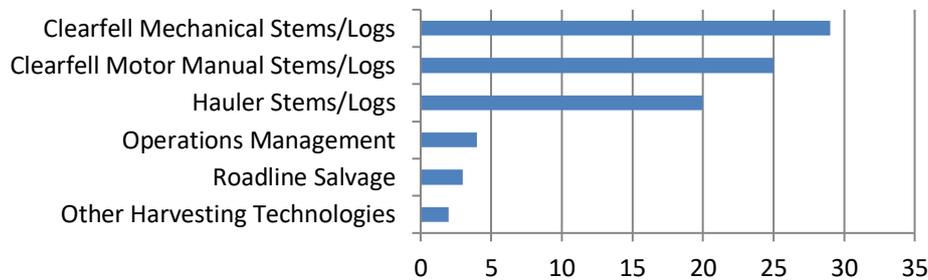
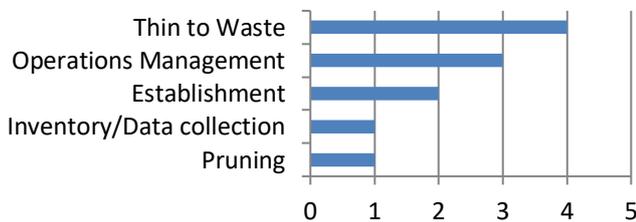Figure 7. Harvesting Near Hits By Operation

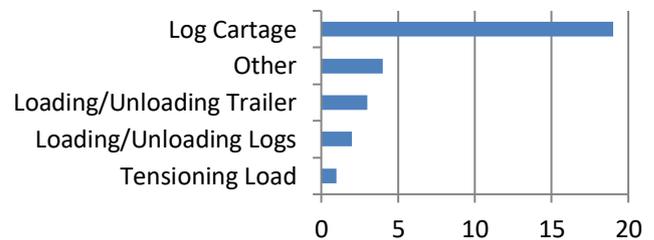
Figure 8. Silviculture Near Hits By Operation

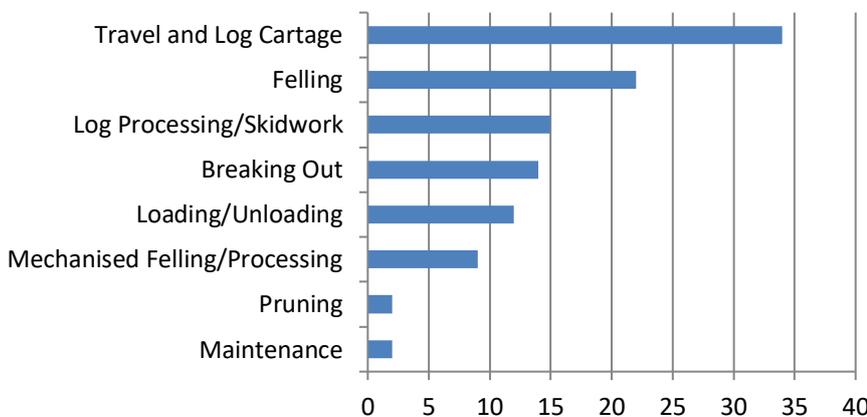Figure 9. Log Transport Near Hits By Operation

Figure 10. Near Hits By Critical Risk Area

As with last quarter, travel and log cartage incident were predominant in the Near Hit reporting with 14 travel events and 20 log cartage events, associated with driving conditions, road maintenance and log slippage. Felling near hits were the second most commonly reported event with 21 instances. Harvesting near hits in clearfell motor manual incidents showed an increase compared to Q4, 2017. Mechanised felling and processing incidents remained consistent between Q4 2017 and Q1 2018, while maintenance and pruning near hits reduced.

NOTE: Forestry-specific machinery have been added to the IRIS category 'Plant'.