



Sawmills – Struck-by Injuries

284 workers in the sawmills industry sustained serious struck-by or struck-against injuries in the years 2000–2004



These injuries were so serious, the sawmill workers had to take time off work to recover, or in some cases were permanently disabled. These serious injuries are costly and affect your industrial insurance premiums. They contribute to the reason for the average base rate of \$1.81 per hour per employee paid by sawmills employers in 2006. If your company has a higher than average number of injuries (claims), your “experience rating” could increase by as much as 25% in one year to \$2.26 per hour per employee.



Stated in another way, if you had 20 full-time wood product manufacturing employees and had an average number of injuries (claims), you would pay about \$72,400 in premiums in 2006. If your experience rating increased by 25% because you had higher than average injuries, you would pay about \$18,000 more or \$90,400 in premiums in 2006.

Causes of struck-by injuries

One of the primary causes of injuries among workers in the sawmill industry is getting struck by or against log & lumber pieces, wood cutting machines, and other lumber mill equipment.



Logs may kickback and strike the operator.

Ensure that carriage cradles of whole-log sash gang saws (Swedish gangs), are of adequate height.

Ways to prevent struck-by injuries

- Train your workers in the proper use, maintenance, inspection, repair, and replacement of their equipment.
- Provide and enforce the use of personal protective equipment, such as goggles, earplugs, face shields, dust masks and foot protection.
- Ensure protection from flying hazards and kickbacks by properly guarding your equipment with devices such as, anti-kickbacks, safety fingers, screens, hoods, and spreader wheels.
- All structures and lumber lifting devices must be designed to support the imposed load and minimize the possibility of lumber falling onto workers.
- Ensure that ropes, cables, slings, or chains are stable and used safely when holding loads around working areas.

Learn more on preventing injuries by going to OSHA eTools at: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/sawmills/index.html>