

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE  
HAZARDS OF THE FOREST ENVIRONMENT**

**Purpose:** General Hazards of Working Near or Visiting Forested Areas

**Personal Protective Equipment and clothing specific to this Procedure:**



Safety Footwear



Safety Helmet



High Visibility



Long Trousers



Safety Glasses



ForestrySA is a Non-Smoking Worksite

\* WHEN ENTERING THE FOREST ENVIRONMENT BE AWARE OF ANY NEW OR ONGOING HAZARDS

**Equipment specific to task:**

- UHF Radio / Mobile Phone

**Pre-requisite training or competency requirements:**

- ForestrySA Induction
- Contractor Induction (if applicable)

**References:**

- Harvesting Contactor Locations
- Fire Maps
- Regular Visitor / Minor Contractor Induction
- Operations Plan
- Logging Signs (incl. radio channel)
- \*Legal Requirements – refer to Compliance Register for more information

Recommended Procedure	Potential Risk/Impact Considerations (Safety, Environment, Quality)
<p><b>Job Step 1: The forest floor can be uneven, through mounding or ploughing, with hidden holes, logging slash, vegetation, sloping terrain, and caves. When wet or damp any litter, debris or slash becomes very slippery – use extra care. Beware of snakes, spiders, bees and wasps.</b></p>	
<p><b>REMEMBER – TAKE 5 - take time - take charge.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always move in a careful and considered manner – anticipate trip/slip hazards.</li> <li>• Continually assess hazards and risks when in the forest environment.</li> <li>• Long trousers must be worn during outdoor forest activities.</li> <li>• Use UV protection provided (clothing, hats, sunscreen and glasses)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falls, sprains, strains, cuts from falling on wood slash.</li> <li>• Falling down sinkhole, caves or mineshafts</li> <li>• Sun burn and skin disease</li> </ul>
<p><b>Job Step 2: Branches and needles can scratch face/eyes/legs, in particular when working in unthinned areas.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear safety glasses</li> <li>• Wear long trousers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penetration injuries to eyes.</li> <li>• Scratches to face/legs/arms</li> </ul>
<p><b>Job Step 3: Trees may contain, broken tops, debris from adjacent felled trees, pine cones may dislodge or animals / birds may drop cones when startled.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety helmets must be worn when working in plantations where trees are above head height. *</li> <li>• Try to look ahead for any overhead hazards when moving through the forest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact injuries to the head or trunk.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Job Step 4: Contractors have their own site rules. Find out requirements if visiting their work area.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact a ForestrySA supervisor for instructions on Contractor site rules.</li> <li>• Do not enter an operational forest site unless communication by UHF Radio or Phone (where possible), has occurred with the nominated contact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crush injuries.</li> <li>• Operations / Contractors not aware of individuals / vehicles on their worksite. Can lead to damage to vehicles or unnecessary exposure of individuals to hazards.</li> </ul>

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<p>person (Contractor) on site, or the FSA Contract Supervisor (as appropriate) to ensure all stakeholders are aware of proposed time frames and activities. <i>Does not apply in emergency operations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Visibility clothing must be worn around machinery (zips or velcro tabs must be closed). ★</li> <li>• Always keep a safe reasonable distance from machinery and stay in sight of operator. ★</li> <li>• If approaching operating machinery to talk to the operator, come from the side and wait until the operator notifies you to approach.</li> <li>• Park vehicles ensuring they do not block firebreaks and are visible to all use hazard lights if advantageous.</li> <li>• <b>MINIMISE</b> work in compartments where falling or extraction or similar activities are still active.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Job Step 5: Beware of other machinery operators</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear Hi-Vis clothing</li> <li>• Be a safe distance from working machine</li> <li>• Stay where the operator can see you</li> <li>• Do not approach machine until it has stopped</li> <li>• Try to avoid working in compartments adjacent to aerial operations that may involve chemical or fertiliser application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crush injuries</li> <li>• Flying debris</li> <li>• Potential for contamination from aerial operations</li> </ul>
<b>Job Step 6: Driving ForestrySA vehicle off-road</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drive to the conditions</li> <li>• Obey all signage ★</li> <li>• Comply with all road rules ★.</li> <li>• Select appropriate route and terrain – NEVER drive diagonally up or down a slope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle crash / rollover</li> <li>• Personal injury</li> </ul>
<b>Job Step 7: Driving in Severe Weather conditions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take appropriate action whenever there is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Poor visibility</li> <li>– Heavy rain</li> <li>– High winds</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees and branches falling</li> <li>• Vehicle crash</li> </ul>
<b>Job Step 8: Hot Conditions and Hydration</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drink small drinks of water often when doing heavy hot work, rather than consuming large drinks every now and again.</li> <li>• Increase your intake of fluids if your urine is dark and add a little extra salt to food if acclimatising – do not take salt tablets</li> <li>• <u>If you suffer dehydration</u>, do not recommence work until you are fully rehydrated.</li> </ul> <p>Here hot weather or heat stress conditions are anticipated. the Manager responsible for each work area has the authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the hours or the work rate;</li> <li>• Reschedule certain work, or limit it to the cooler parts of the day;</li> <li>• Provide alternative, lighter work (in better climatic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dehydration</li> </ul>



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conditions if available eg. shade); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide regular rest breaks;</li> <li>• Rotate employees engaged in heavier or high risk tasks;</li> <li>• Provide access to cool potable drinking water;</li> <li>• Erect temporary shade covers to reduce effects of sun;</li> <li>• Install effective air conditioners and blinds/tinting, etc on all machinery with enclosed cabins; and</li> <li>• Use air circulating fans or portable coolers.</li> </ul>	
<b>Job Step 9: Wet, cold and windy conditions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If at the Managers discretion the working conditions become too dangerous to work, the employees may be assigned alternative work in a safer environment;</li> <li>• Wear high visibility clothing when working in wet and low visibility conditions;</li> <li>• ForestrySA will provide appropriate PPE, including wet weather gear and footwear;</li> <li>• Not using hand-held electric or motorised equipment, except in an emergency or where it is deemed to be safe;</li> <li>• Employees will be encouraged to bring a change of clothes to the workplace if it is reasonably foreseeable that the working conditions are wet and cold; and</li> <li>• The employee and Manager are to communicate such hazards if conditions change or worsen and appropriate action taken on an as needs basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crushing injuries from wind or dim lighting</li> <li>• Slips and falls from wet ground conditions</li> <li>• Hypothermia from cold temperatures</li> </ul>
<b>Clean up / Waste disposal</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If applicable, dispose of chemical waste as per the label and SDS★ instructions.</li> <li>• Dispose or recycle non-chemical waste appropriately.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental contamination from waste.</li> <li>• Quality contamination of products e.g. plastic in woodchip.</li> </ul>