

International Worksop on Safety-11 in Practice

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Abstract

Learning From 'Work as done' In New Zealand Logging Crews Dr Hillary Bennett

Logging work in the US was rated as the most dangerous work activity in 2018. In the UK, the worker fatal injury rate in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is higher than any other main industry sector. In forestry operations in New Zealand, from 2011 to 2018, 35 people died. Placing forestry as the third most dangerous sector in New Zealand. In the attempt to improve health and safety outcomes in logging operations, the focus has traditionally been to increase auditing, certify loggers and review the adverse outcomes with no attempt to learn from everyday work or 'work as done'. The everyday work, which occurs most of the time is a rich and untapped source of learning. To access this learning 'Everyday Work Learning Teams' were used to gain an understanding of 'work as done' as opposed to 'work as imagined' from the perspective of a logging crew.

The objective of the 'Everyday Work Learning Team' was to provide insights into good practices, dependencies, sensitivities and frustrations related to the logging operations. These insights were used to enable the logging crews and the Forest Owner organisation to take action to increase *what supports*- and reduce *what impedes* good health and safety performance and transfer this learning to other forest estates.

The objectives of the 'Everyday Work Learning Team' were to:

- Understand 'work as done', as opposed to 'work as imagined' as experienced by the loggers
- Describe and explore the good practices, dependencies, sensitivities and frustrations of 'work as done' and actions that support or impede safe logging
- View variation in work practices as something to learn from, rather than something simple to be detected and corrected
- Collaborate with loggers, to improve health and safety outcomes by understanding how 'work as done' supports or constrain safe performance of logging operations

The process involved three 3 logging crews, participating in a 3 facilitated focus groups. The focus groups were structured to surface the crews views on 'work as done' and to identify conditions under which multiple logging activities working together can deliver acceptable outcomes. The insights from the 'Everyday Work Learning Team' focus groups will be reported as well as reflections on how the crews can incorporate this learning process into their daily operations.

References

Blanchard, D. (2018). Top 10 most dangerous jobs. EHS Today.

HSE (2017) Health and safety in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector in Great Britain.

Contact Details

Dr Hillary Bennett
Leading Safety
P O Box 300594, Albany, Auckland 0752

Phone: 027 4514001
E-mail: hillary@leadingsafety.co.nz