How QHSE Technology is Supporting
The Forestry & Paper Manufacturing Industries

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Introduction

Forestry is dangerous, arduous work, currently ranking as one of the world's most dangerous sectors to work in. Logging is physically demanding work, deals with heavy equipment, and most often takes place in remote outdoor locations far from proper medical aid. The vast majority of fatal and major injuries in forestry stem from the use of heavy equipment, machinery, chainsaws, and the momentum of falling or rolling trees.

With such a high injury and fatality rate, safety has become a major concern within the industry. For companies in logging, timber manufacturing, or pulp and paper, it has become absolutely paramount that they exercise proper due diligence when it comes to all aspects of QHSE and operations management. Compliance and QHSE managers in the forestry & paper manufacturing industries must stay vigilant and strive to make health and safety a top priority. As health and safety regulations become increasingly stringent, it will become more and more difficult for QHSE managers to ensure that their organization complies with its health and safety obligations under the law.

Adopting Best Practices to Regulate Health & Safety

Forestry industries worldwide, spurred by the alarmingly high injury and fatality rates, have made large strides in adapting and improving their QHSE processes and technologies, integrating safety into every facet of their operations. Logging is becoming safer now than in the past, thanks to safer equipment, technologies, and more effective health and safety training programs and initiatives. Increasingly, the industry itself is adopting practices that help better regulate health and safety on worksites, with the implementation of initiatives to improve worksite safety, including random drug testing, on-site safety training, and reviews of codes of practice.

Injuries have begun to decline within the forestry sector, and this is partly due to the industry's increasing reliance on utilizing QHSE technology to support and automate a wide variety of health and safety processes.

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ITRAK 365 - Enabling QHSE Transformation in Forestry

ITRAK 365 is an essential tool that allows any forestry or paper manufacturing business to run their entire QHSE operations from end-to-end. Whether your business is logging, timber manufacturing or pulp and paper, ITRAK 365 can enable the automation of a wide variety of QHSE business processes and comes with all the functionality you need to stay compliant.

ITRAK 365 currently supports the following North American forestry and paper manufacturing companies: Interfor, Island Timberlands, The BC Forest Safety Council and Alberta Newsprint. Here are a few specific functions that ITRAK 365 performs for our forestry and paper manufacturing clients:

Quality Control for Log & Timber - Island Timberlands

Whether your business wants to track the quality of log or timber, ITRAK 365 can facilitate it with its Quality Tracking Tool. Records can be shared and stored for future reference, allowing more visibility across the forestry value chain. Production mills are expected to establish in-plant quality control to ensure the finished product meets or exceeds the requirements for the grade specified in the applicable standards. ITRAK 365 enables this quality control function with customizable easy-to-use forms.

Sawmill Dust Inspections - Interfor

Wood-dust is a serious fire hazard in the forestry industry. With past occurrences of saw mill explosions due to negligence, the fines are hefty for failing this inspection. ITRAK 365 helps to capture potential risks of sawdust in your facilities and work spaces. The ITRAK 365 Mobile App allows you to capture images of potential hazards and record them initiate corrective actions. With this valuable inspection data, companies can be more proactive and prevent fires and explosions in their facilities.

Safety Equipment Inspection Scheduling - Alberta Newsprint

Workers often perform their activities in dangerous situations, and through regular inspection scheduling on safety harnesses and other safety equipment, you can ensure that your field workforce has the proper CSA compliant equipment to minimize risks. By ensuring your safety equipment meets the requirements, you not only help keep your workforce safe, you also prevent liabilities from occurring.

Fire Hazard Assessments - Interfor

ITRAK 365 clients utilize the ITRAK 365 mobile application on site to meet the requirement of assessing the fuel hazard risk of a fire starting and spreading. When recording the information, the assessor is given a Hazard and Risk rating score to assist in determining what, if any, abatement actions are required.

Environmental Incident Reporting - Interfor & Island Timberlands

All forestry companies are required to maintain the integrity of the environment they work in. The user-friendly ITRAK 365 forms provide an easy way to capture data relating to factors affecting terrain stability, soil management, drainage, wildlife management, water quality and riparian management. With insightful data, companies can conduct cause analysis and implement corrective actions to prevent environmental incidents in the future.

Log Loader Tracking - Island Timberlands

With the mobile data collection functionality and configuration flexibility, companies can track and report on a variety of valuable data related to all processes.

Contractor and Visitor Orientations Records - Interfor

When new visitors are onsite at your facilities, you need to ensure that the visitors are aware of the dangers around them. Capturing consent forms and orientation checklists are a must. With ITRAK 365, your business can easily manage question forms and data entry fields, to help your business track orientation records effectively. ITRAK 365 will also store records and allow you to extract safety reports to ensure that visitor records are always current.

Worker Competency - Interfor

The forestry industry is one of the most dangerous fields to work in. Every employer wants to ensure that their employees have the required knowledge to perform the responsibilities of their respective job roles safely and efficiently. With the ITRAK 365 Worker Competency Assessments, your business can record the outcomes of employee assessments to ensure your their best performance and provide an audit trail for proof of competency.

Training Certification Tracking - Interfor

ITRAK 365 allows your business to track and monitor all training certification records such as First Aid, forklift training, WHMIS, etc. Proactive notifications and reporting in ITRAK 365 keeps you stay on top of expiry dates ensuring that your workforce is always compliant.

Road Construction Quality - Island Timberlands

There are many dangers that come with working in rough terrains. ITRAK 365 enables forestry companies to easily record and analyze various quality and safety related inspections, such as road construction quality. Inspecting vital areas such as ditch depth, culverts, and switchbacks relating to the integrity of the road construction ensures that safety and quality standards are always met.

Whether in logging, timber manufacturing or pulp and paper, forestry organizations around the world are constantly examining the growing role that QHSE technologies play in becoming agile, faster, and better equipped to adapt to the ever changing world of health and safety regulations.

Armed with ITRAK 365, these companies are well-equipped to handle the complexities of streamlining their specific operational and QHSE processes. These forestry companies are becoming more efficient, effective, and better able to make precise business decisions that help reduce and eliminate fatalities and serious injuries across work-sites. Innovative QHSE technology and software will continue to support the forestry industry long into the future.

To learn more about ITRAK 365, visit:
www.useitrak.com