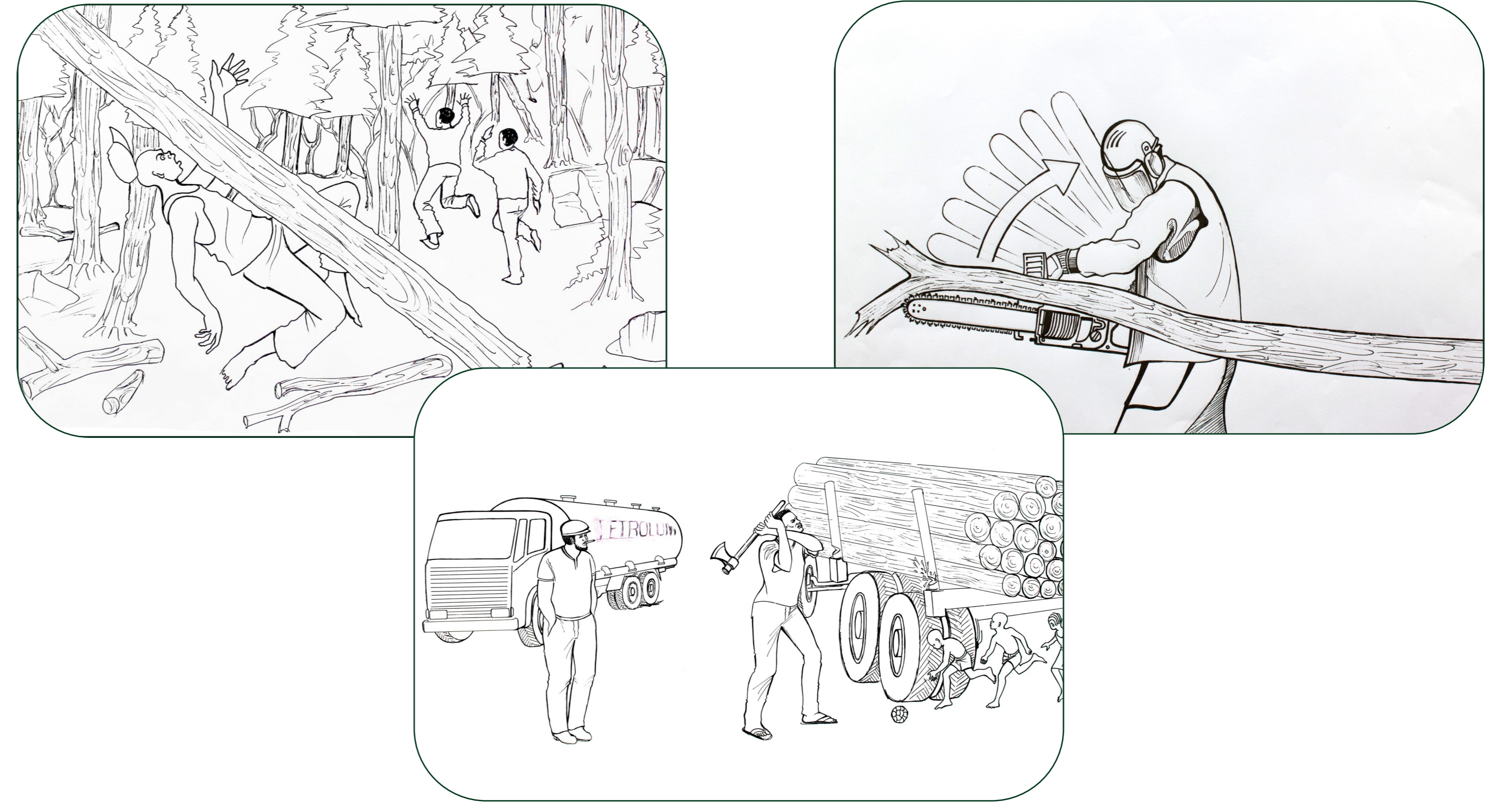


## What is occupational safety and health (OSH)?

The aim of occupational safety and health is to ensure a good, healthy working environment for all employees, stakeholders and visitors. In the case of disease prevention or hazardous waste disposal, OSH also protects members of the family and surrounding communities, being therefore a crucial part of general health and safety of a population.

Creating awareness and primary prevention of workplace hazards are two key areas in occupational safety. To ensure an equal, safe, healthy and productive workplace for all, it is always necessary to create and implement a code of conduct and standard operating procedures for work place activities. In some cases, having check-up lists for work process steps is useful, as this will ensure that all necessary precautions have been taken.

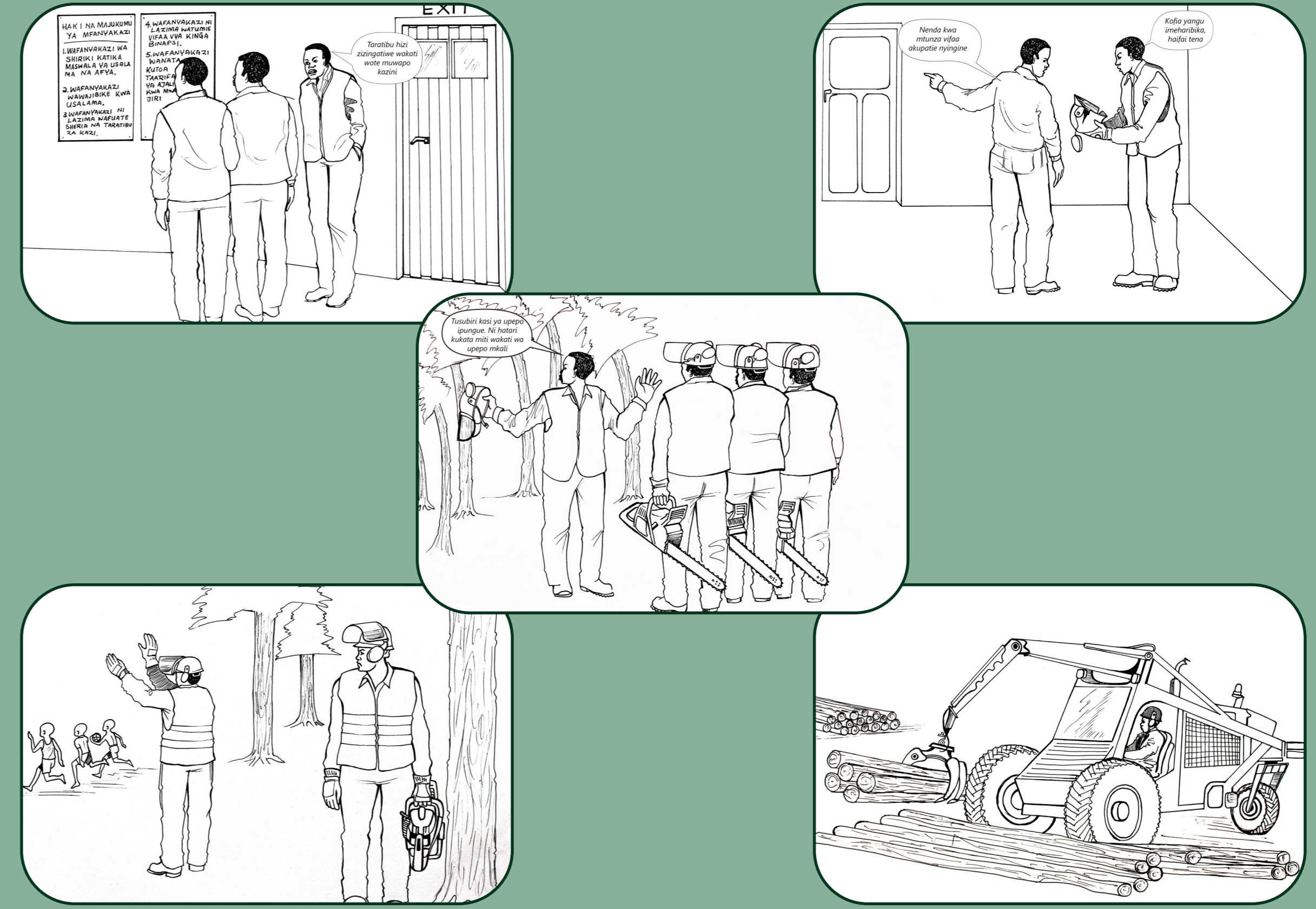


## Risk assessment and management

One of the first steps in occupational safety and health is to identify and assess the risks related to the work and its different steps. This forms the foundation for the standard operating procedures and codes of conduct. The list of risks, their prevention and countermeasures should they realize are the best insurance against safety issues at a workplace. The risk assessment should be done in a participatory manner in working groups, as this will ensure that all potential risks for all workers are identified and the countermeasures are as versatile and effective as possible. Participatory process not only ensures wide representation, it also commits people to the plans and procedures.

During the risk assessment and risk management planning, two dimensions of risks should be identified: frequency and impact level (effected people and processes). Particular attention should be paid to those risks that are not very frequent but in realising, would cause significant damage, as these are the risks that most often go unnoticed.

Part of the risk management planning is mitigation, should risks materialize. Frequent and supervised practising, held individually and in relevant groups is one of the most important aspects of risk mitigation. One of the most important issues is the use of proper protective equipment, that will ensure your safety during operations. (See pictures on right for examples.)

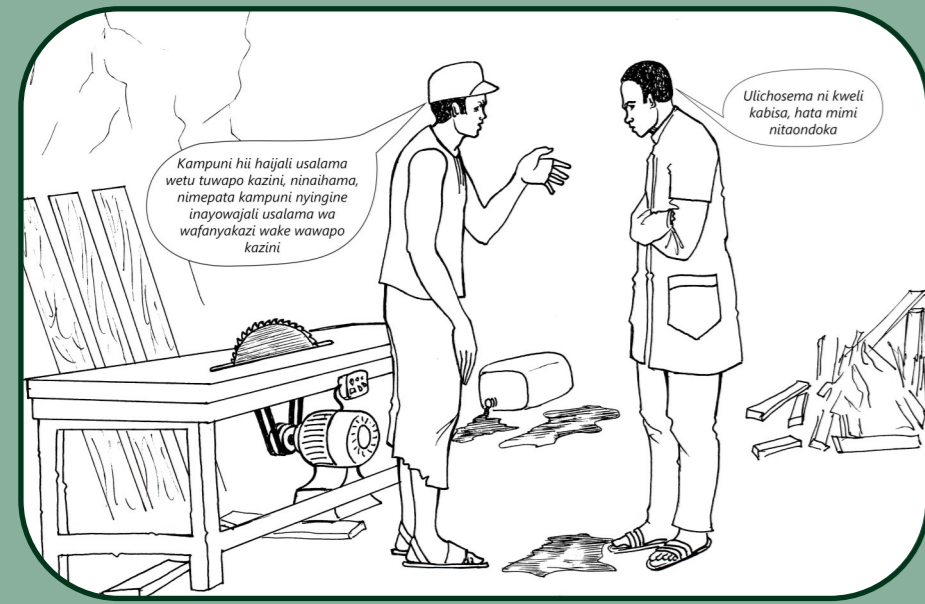


## Controlling risks in forestry and wood processing work

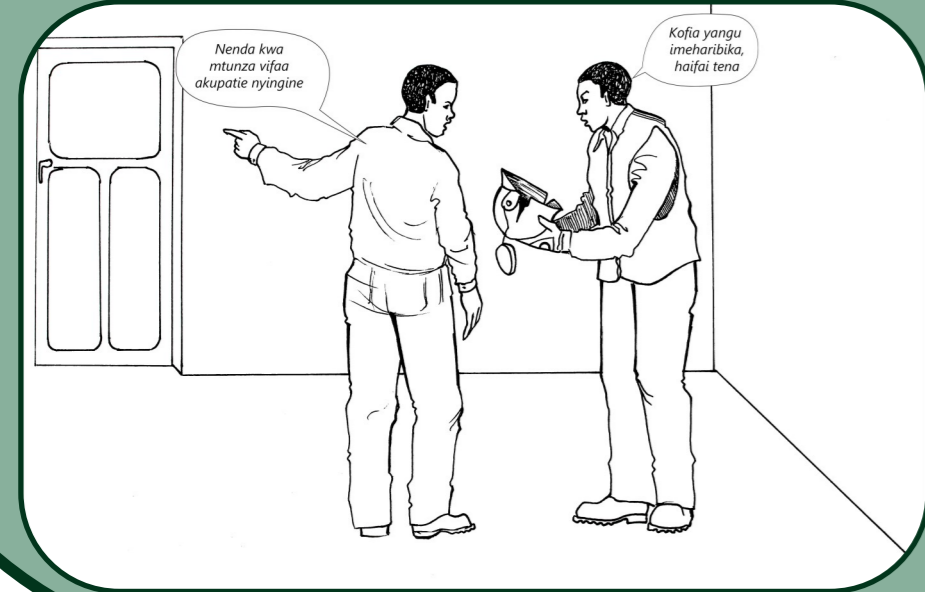
Risks can be mitigated at all levels by developing and following instructions that reduce the chance of accidents and incidents. The risk levels related to different processes are partly universal between organizations and cultures, and partly they are country and region specific. Please read the examples below and think what risks your work place faces in each category.

### Risks related to organizational culture

Ensuring professionalism at a work place is not only a good way to enhance productivity and quality of work, it is also one of the most important ways to reduce risks in a workplace. Risk management can also create many benefits through increased worker commitment and capacity.



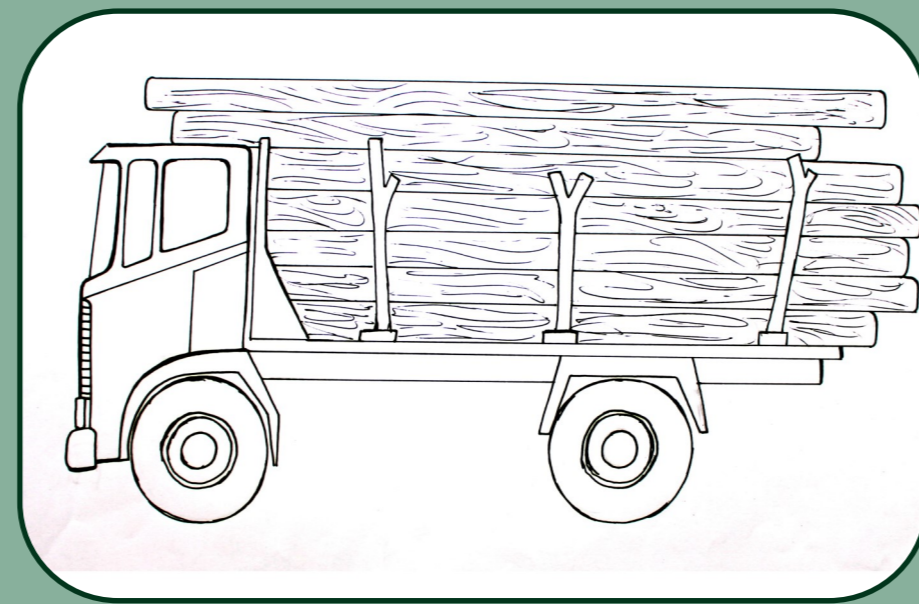
**Picture 1.** As a worker, you have the right to demand safe working conditions that do not endanger your or your co-workers safety and health.



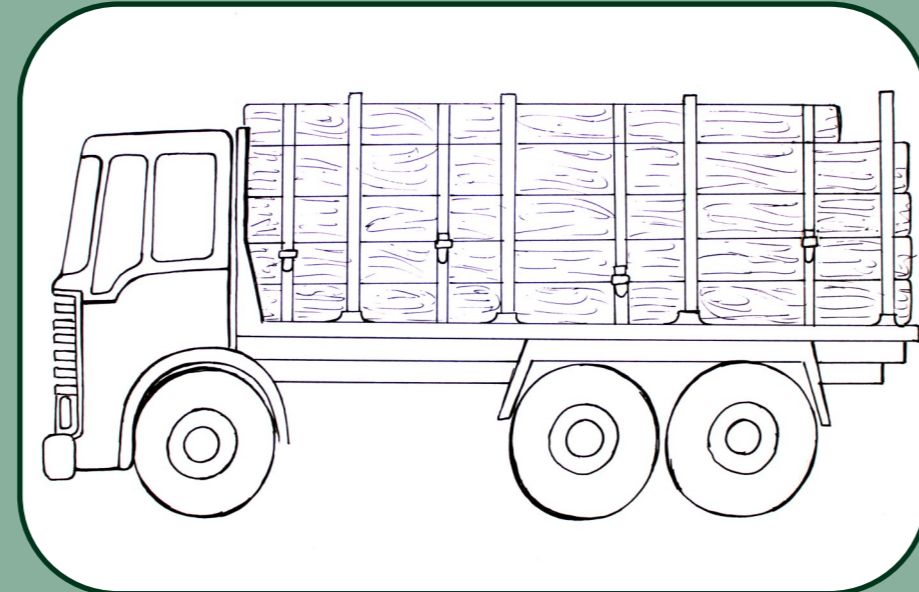
**Picture 2.** As a manager, you have the responsibility to ensure your workers safety, especially in processes that can be deemed dangerous and require personal protective equipment.

### Risks related to general culture

Commonly established habits are one risk factor, unless there is a good, clear guidelines given by the surrounding society. As rules become stricter and are implemented with more precision, risks at all levels of the society are reduced. This development should be followed and utilized at work places.



**Pictures 3–4.** Occupational safety and health does not only apply to direct activities within the industry, but also the support processes and their operators. When directing your support structure service providers, you ensure at the time the quality and safety for your products and service chain.

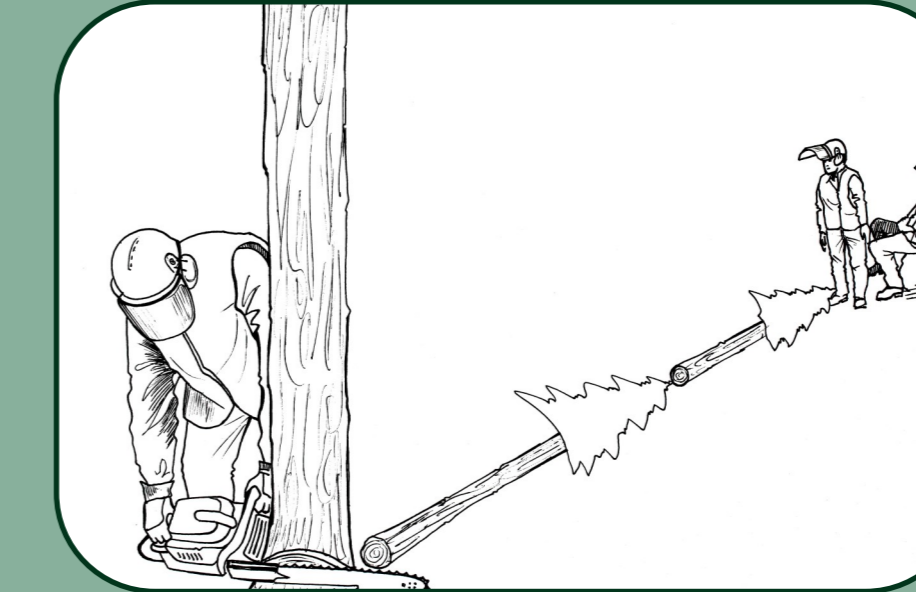


### Risks related to individual behaviour

Regardless of established rules or processes, the most important factor is always the individual. No matter how technical the risks are, the most common cause is the user of the equipment; i.e. the process handler. By establishing rules and following them, you can keep yourself and your co-workers safe.



**Picture 5.** Any rule or procedure is only as good as its implementation. In some cases you might have to apply the rules, but never let this distract you from ensuring your own safety!



**Picture 6.** When working in groups, remember to leave enough space between you and your team members. For example, when felling trees, the proper working distance is the length of two felled trees.

### FWITC services related to occupational safety and health

FWITC organizes the following courses in occupational safety and health:

- Basic health and first aid in forestry and sawmilling operations
- Advanced health and first aid in forestry and sawmilling operations
- Ensuring occupational health and safety in forestry operations
- Managing occupational health and safety in forestry operations
- Safety in sawmilling

In addition, FWITC can organize OSH planning, management and evaluation services for your work place. Please contact us for more information.

### Contact and how to get there

Forestry and Wood Industry Training Centre (FWITC)  
Kinyanambo  
Mafinga

Mr. Edigary Mwaifweya Forestry and Wood Industry Training Centre Manager

E-mail: edigary.mwaifweya@privateforestry.or.tz

Tel: +255 744 874 521

Driving instructions: Junction of CF Madibira Rd., drive straight about 1,5 km. The junction to FWITC is opposite to the brick-quetting factory, on the left side of the road.

### About the Private Forestry Programme (PFP)

The Private Forestry Programme (PFP) supports private forest ownership, particularly the establishment and management of plantations by smallholders, as well as the wood industry and the development of mature timber markets that would benefit all stakeholders. The Programme operates in four regions: Iringa, Njombe, Morogoro and Ruvuma.

The Programme is supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania.