

gas, after being absorbed by a forest, is later given off as sulphur dioxide, which incidentally, is a carcinogen. The question is, at what concentrations, how, and precisely which organs and systems does it affect when a person is working in the forest?

In particular, there is no single answer to the question as to what is causing the increased incidence of skin diseases. Nor can we speak unequivocally of a specific treatment for this. In East Germany, workers engaged in felling trees that have been killed by acid rain and harmful emissions are given a free ration of fruit juices, for the vitamins they contain. In the USSR, there appears to be a need for joint studies conducted by the Institute of Labour Hygiene and the forest research institutes to work out criteria for use in determining safe and unsafe working conditions in diseased forests.

The truth is that the forests are not only suffering from global ecological pollution, but also from the activities of the very people who work in them. By this is meant not only the senseless destruction of forests, but also imperfections in the machinery, technologies and organization of production. An illustration of this is the gasoline driven power saw. Not only do the workers operating it have to put up with noise, exhaust, gasoline fumes and wood dust, but even the mineral oils used for lubricating the chains are becoming a source of soil and even water pollution. That is why the West German firm "Shtile" has recently perfected a harmless vegetable oil for use in chain saws. It is made from rape seed.