



## HSE ALERT # 168

### DEFORESTATION (ENVIRONMENT)

**Deforestation** is the logging or burning of trees in forested areas. The removal of trees without sufficient reforestation has resulted in damage to habitat, biodiversity loss and aridity. Also deforested regions often degrade into wasteland. In many countries deforestation is an ongoing issue which is causing extinction, changes to climatic conditions, desertification and displacement of indigenous people.



#### ***Impact of Deforestation:***

##### **Hydrologic:**

Trees extract groundwater through their roots and release it into the atmosphere. When part of a forest is removed, the trees no longer evaporate away this water, resulting in a much drier climate. Deforestation reduces the content of water in the soil and groundwater as well as atmosphere moisture.

##### **Soil:**

Undistributed forest has very low rates of soil loss. Deforestation generally increases rate of soil erosion, by increasing the amount of runoff and reducing the protection of the soil from tree litter.

##### **Ecological:**

Deforestation results in declines in biodiversity. The removal or destruction of areas of forest cover has resulted in a degraded environment with reduced biodiversity. Forests support biodiversity, providing habitat for wildlife.

##### **Economic Impact:**

The forest products industry is a large part of the economy in both developed and developing countries. Short-term economic gains made by conversion of forest to agriculture, or over-exploitation of wood products, typically leads to loss of long-term income and long term biological productivity.

##### **Conclusion:**

Regulated deforestation can supply us with lumber without completely destroying the forests, but deforestation which is geared economically can permanently destroy our ecosystem. Pakistan is the country where forest resources are not only meager but also dwindling rapidly. Hardly 5 percent of the area is under forest. Grow a tree for country and take ownership for trees to be survived.

**"SAVE THE FOREST, YOU CAN!"**