

Accident Survey shows training and CTSP on staff lower accident rates

TCIA's 2012/2013 Accident Survey indicates that training and having a CTSP on staff lower accident rates.

Accidents continue to increase in the tree care industry and this trend is distressing to companies, employees and consumers. TCIA's annual Accident Survey is just one tool we're using to combat this increasing problem. Although we had 392 responses from companies, there was not enough complete data for TCIA to accurately compare groups (member vs. non-member, accredited vs. non-accredited, etc.) within the survey.

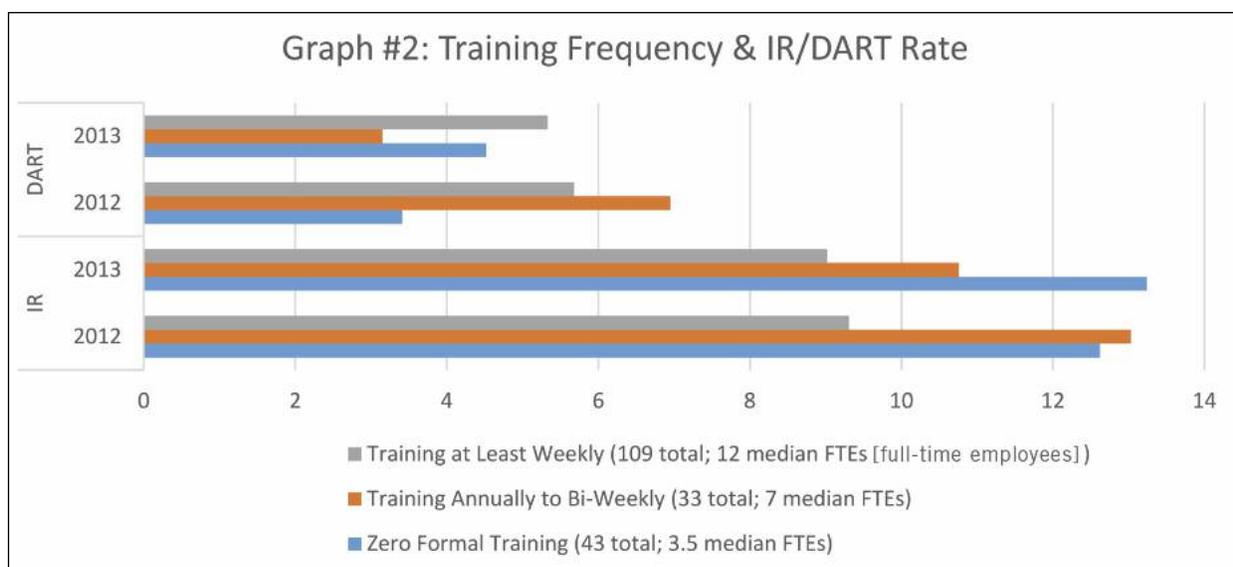
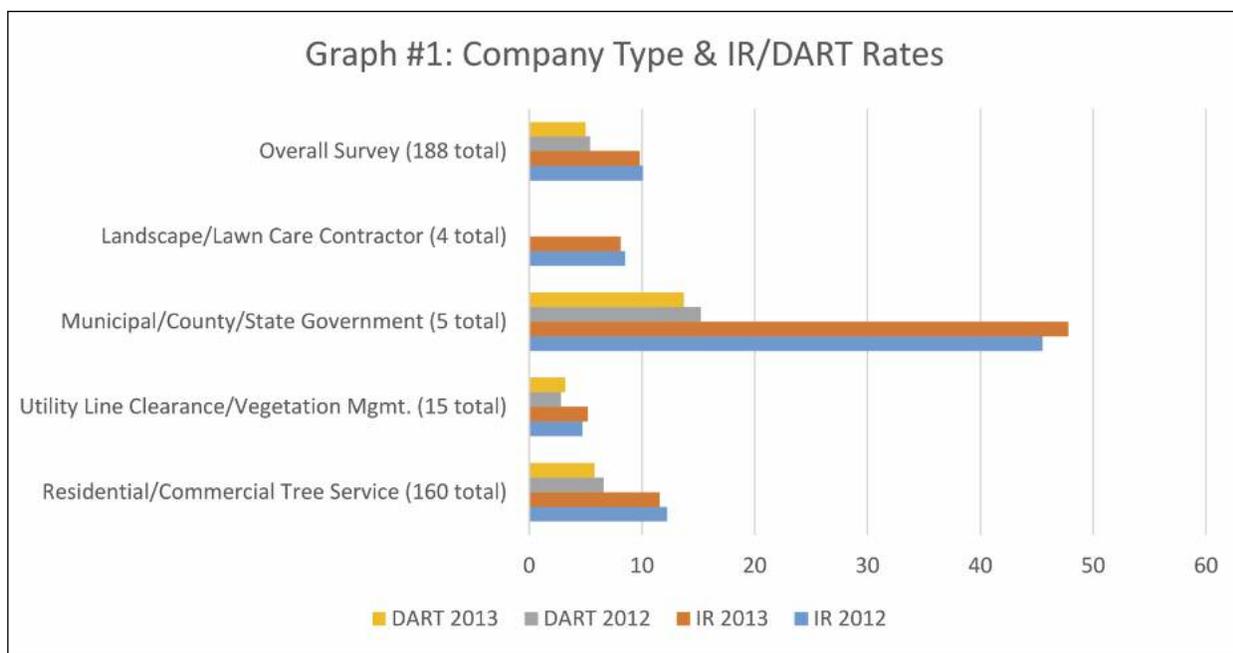
The majority of respondents (73.28 percent) were residential and commercial tree care companies and 93 percent of these respondents worked full-time, employing one or more person(s) full time or creating 1,000-plus hours of employment for the year.

TCIA measured an accident rate statistic known as the DART rate. The DART represents the number of accidents that caused the employee to have Days Away, Restricted duties, or Transfer (DART) to another job, for the equivalent of 100 employees in a year.

TCIA also measured an accident rate statistic known as the Incident Rate (IR), which represents the number of "recordable" incidents – those which require medical attention – per 100 employees in a year.

Graph #2 shows the relationship of a company's IR and DART rates to the frequency of training. Companies that train more frequently experience lower IR and DART rates. This suggests that frequent training drives attitude and awareness, and elicits safer behaviors.

Additionally, companies with a CTSP on



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staff experienced lower IR rates than companies without a CTSP (as shown in Graph #3). But their DART rates aren't much different. What reason could there be for a company with a CTSP to experience the same DART as a company without a CTSP? A possible explanation is that companies with a CTSP do a better job of reducing the number of small accidents than their counterparts, and are probably more diligent about recording the lost time accidents.

Finally, it seems that larger companies are safer. Why? TCIA speculates that larger companies are able to allocate more resources to safety training programs, although that is not verified by the data.

As a reward for responding to the Accident Survey, one of the survey respondents was

selected at random to receive up to \$250 in safety training materials. TCIA would like to congratulate Greg Hards of TCIA member company First Choice Tree Work LLC in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, for participating in the Accident Survey, and for being randomly selected as the winner of safety materials!

TCIA would also like to thank everyone who participated in this survey. By supplying information, you are helping TCIA work to learn more about how safety can help our businesses and save lives. TCIA encourages TCIA members and non-members alike to complete next year's Accident Survey to help refine our data and improve understanding of the different factors that influence safety on the jobsite.

