



TREE CARE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1938

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For immediate release

The Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) compiled information on 408 occupational tree care accidents that occurred in the United States over a five year period (2009 – 2013).

“As far as we could determine, the victims – regardless of their professional background, title or employment status – were engaged in tree trimming or removal operations for pay at the time of their demise,” says Peter Gerstenberger, Senior Advisor to the President of TCIA for Safety, Standards and Compliance.

“We don’t hold this information out to be encompassing of all fatal accidents. It is limited by the thoroughness of our search criteria as well as the news media’s thoroughness in reporting an occurrence on any given day,” Gerstenberger adds.

Summary of Findings

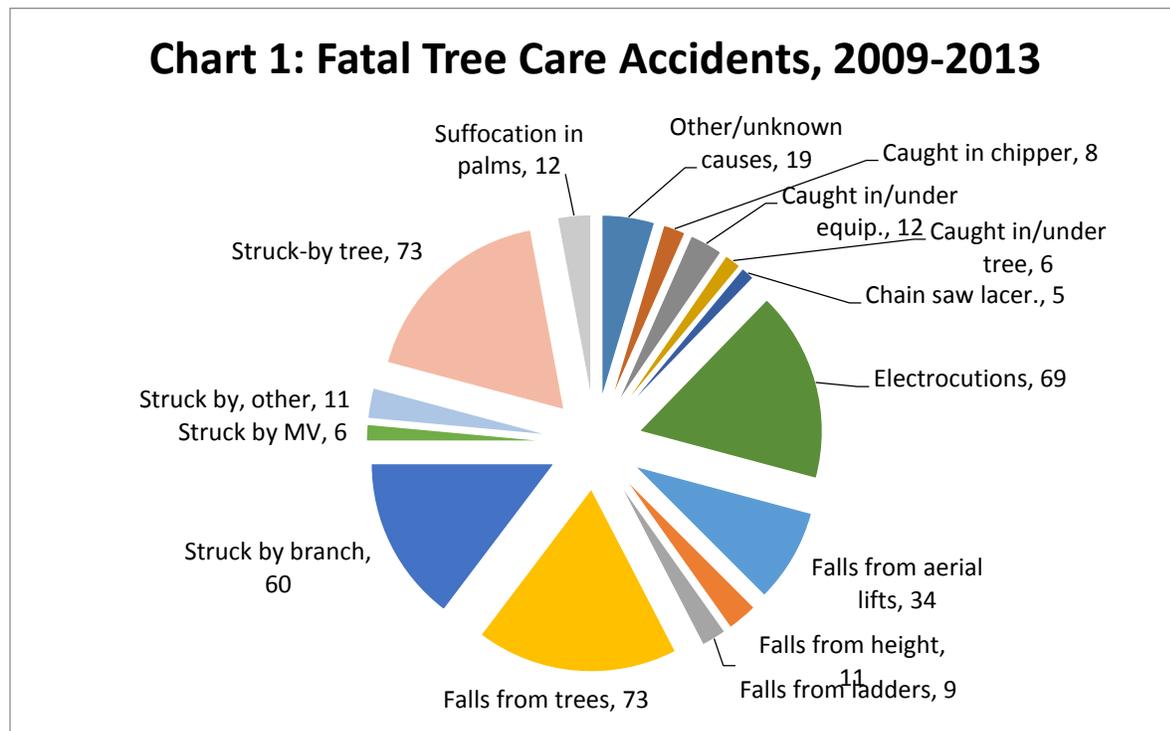


Chart 1 ranks the accidents by the primary cause of death. The most common causes of death were **Falls from Trees** and **Struck-by Trees**, followed closely by **Electrocutions** and **Struck by Branch**. The median age of the deceased was 42.

Analysis of Electrocution Accidents

Electricity is consistently one of the leading causes of worker fatalities in the tree care industry, as evidenced by Chart 1 and Chart 2.

Half of all incidents were directly attributable to use of conductive tools such as uninsulated lifts and aluminum ladders in close proximity to conductors.

This evidence suggests that the victims were not line clearance tree trimmers, who would have been supplied with insulated lifts and safe, non-conductive tools.

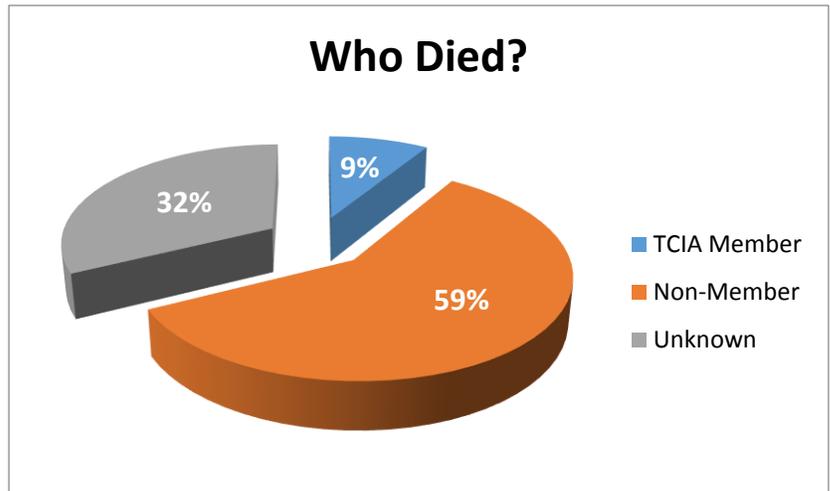
Direct contact	19
Indirect contact	36
conductive tools	16
uninsulated lift	8
tree limbs	7
aluminum ladders	3
unknown	2
Unknown	14

Notable Trends

TCIA scrutinized the data to determine how TCIA member companies fare when it comes to serious and fatal accident. An interesting correlation emerged: TCIA member companies have a much lower fatality rate than non-member companies.

“Our best estimate is that our membership accounts for approximately 75 percent of the business volume of tree care in the U.S., and thus has 75 percent of all exposure to hazards,” Gerstenberger explains.

“Despite the exposure, our members only comprise 9 percent of the fatalities recorded in this five-year period. This is a testament to TCIA Members’ professionalism generally, and specifically to their hiring practices, policies and procedures, equipment and training that allows them to provide a safer workplace than their non-member counterparts,” Gerstenberger adds.



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About the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA): Founded in 1938, TCIA is a public and professional resource on trees and arboriculture. It has more than 2,100 member companies who recognize stringent safety and performance standards and who are required to carry liability insurance. TCIA also has the nation's only Accreditation program that helps consumers find tree care companies that adhere to industry standards for quality and safety; maintain trained, professional staff; and are dedicated to ethical and professional business practices. With access to the latest and best safety standards and

training, the typical TCIA member company has 50 percent fewer accidents than a typical non-member. **Editors:** If you would like additional information or digital photos, please contact Amy Tetreault at (603) 314-5380 or atetreault@tcia.org