



# **EHS** Daily Advisor

Can Technology Make  
Safety **Simpler** and  
**More Effective?**

# SUMMARY

## Can technology make safety simpler and more effective?

We surveyed 517 environmental, health & safety professionals to find out.

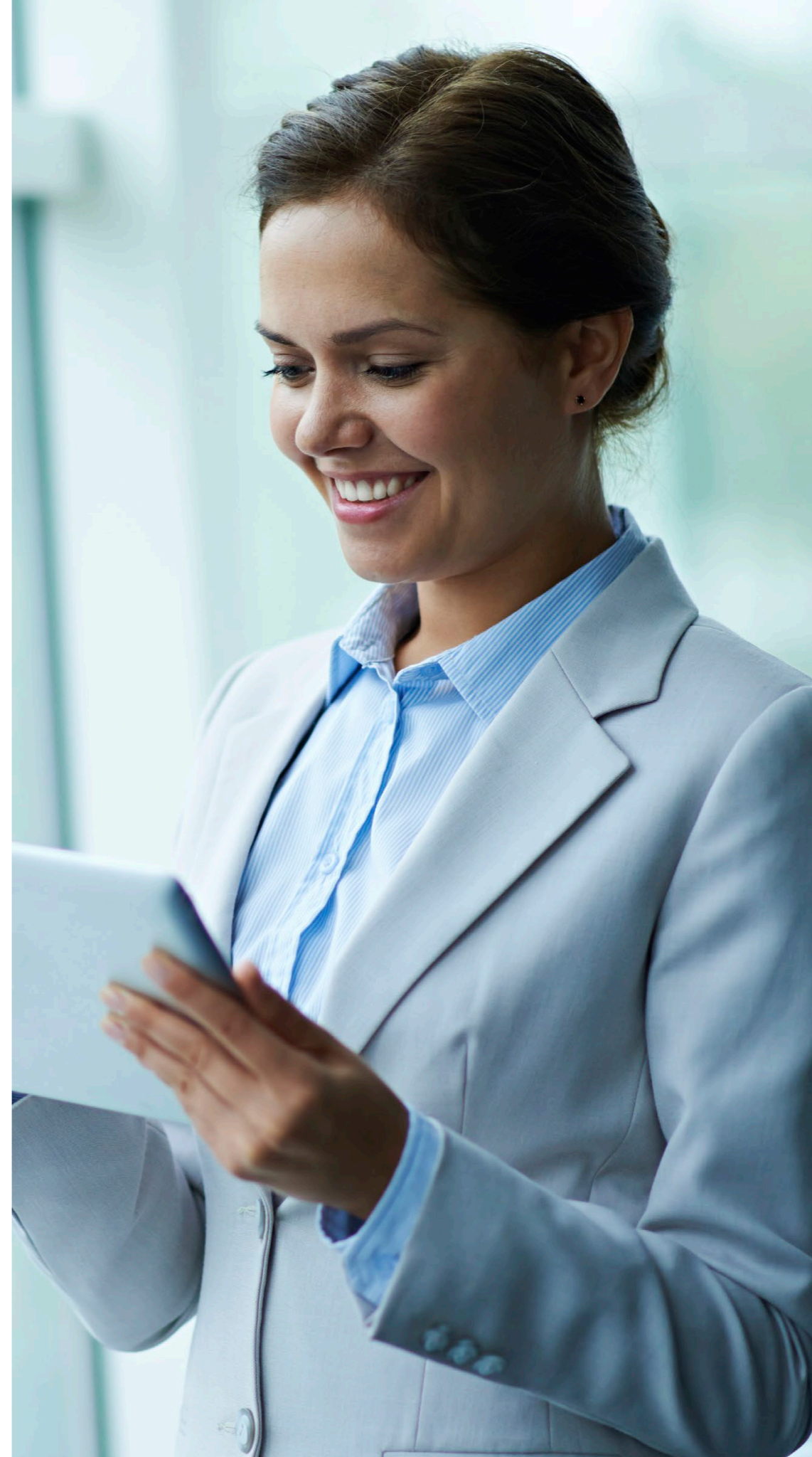
We wanted to know how they:

- Conduct their safety programs and processes;
- Interact with safety regulations and protocols;
- Use technology in their processes;
- Feel about the effectiveness of new technologies such as mobile applications and automated processes.

# HIGHLIGHTS

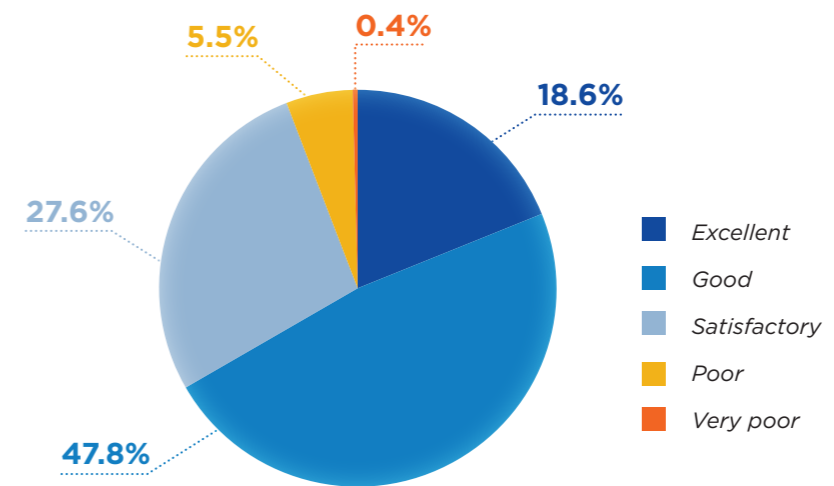
Some highlights of the survey:

- Nearly half (49.5%) of the survey takers still use paper to fill out forms, while the majority of respondents use Excel to report on aggregate monthly safety trends (50.9%).
- 44.3% of respondents use smartphones or tablets for some of their environmental and safety tasks.
- Despite the heavy use of mobile devices, only 14.3% of respondents have a mobile safety application deployed in the field.
- At least 50% of all participants say their company has safety inspections on a monthly or more frequent basis.
- The number one barrier that respondents feel is blocking their use of mobile solutions in the field is budget (42.2%). A distant second (24%) is internal resources.



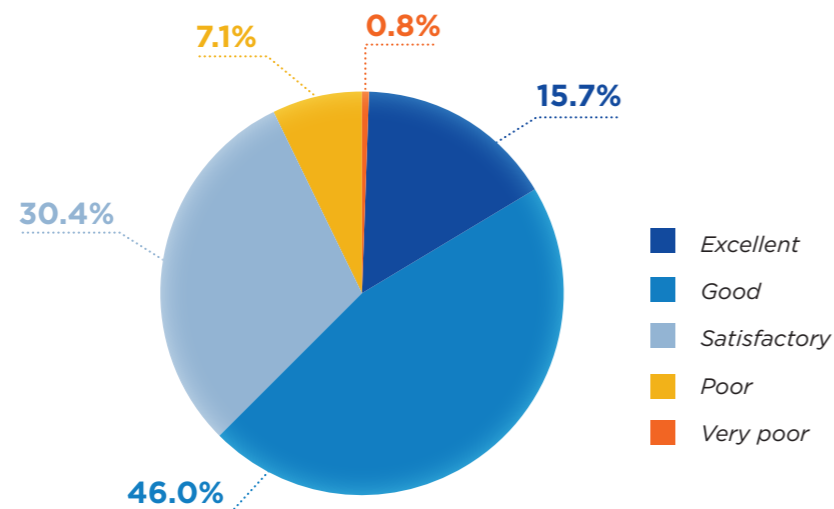
## PLEASE RATE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S EFFECTIVENESS AT IDENTIFYING AND CORRECTING SAFETY ISSUES.

Clearly, the majority of participants have faith in the companies they work for when it comes to safety. 94% of participants feel that their organization is at the very least satisfactory at identifying and correcting safety issues! The largest group (47.8%) feels that their company is "good" at identifying and correcting safety issues. Second are those who feel that their companies are "satisfactory" at tackling safety issues (27.6% said this), and 18.6% said their companies were "excellent" at it. Only 5.5% of respondents feel their company is "poor" at addressing safety concerns—and fewer than 1% feel their company is "very poor" at addressing safety concerns.



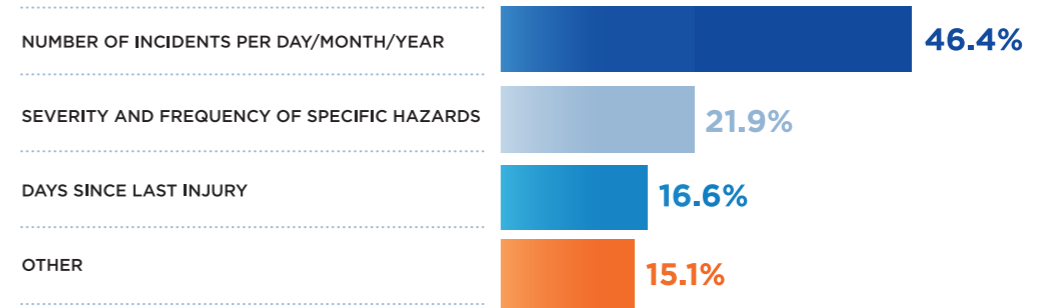
## PLEASE RATE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S EFFECTIVENESS AT ADAPTING TO CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY REGULATIONS.

The overwhelming majority of respondents (92.1%) feel that their organization is at the very least satisfactory at adapting to changes in environmental and safety regulations. Among this group, 46% said they thought their company was "good" at adapting, 30.4% feel they are "satisfactory" at adapting, and 15.7% believe they are "excellent" at adapting. While less than one percent admitted that their company was "very poor" at adapting, 7.1% feel their company is "poor" at adapting to environmental and safety regulations.



## HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR JOB SITES?

The largest segment of those polled (46.4%) said they measured job site safety by the number of incidents per day, month, or year. The next-largest percentage of participants (21.9%) answered that they measure site safety by the severity and frequency of specific hazards. Only 16.6% measure site safety with the classic “days since last injury” method. 15.1% of respondents answered “other” to this question.



## PLEASE INDICATE THE FREQUENCY OF INSPECTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF SITES.

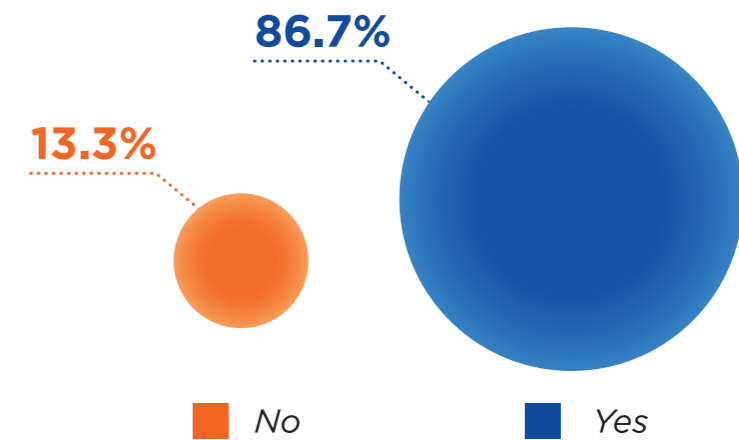
	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	TWICE A YEAR	ANNUALLY	LESS OFTEN THAN ANNUALLY	NO RESPONSES/ OTHER
OFFICE	22.4%	36.1%	12.1%	14.8%	8.7%	5.9%
FACILITY/PLANT	38.8%	34.0%	6.6%	4.3%	1.8%	14.4%
WAREHOUSE	33.3%	28.7%	7.9%	5.6%	2.3%	22.2%
CONSTRUCTION SITE	42.4%	10.3%	2.1%	0.7%	1.2%	43.4%

When it comes to frequency of inspections, three of the four types of sites had a majority of respondents say they conduct weekly inspections: 38.8% for facilities and plants, 33.3% for warehouses, and 42.4% for construction sites. Runners-up for all three were monthly, and less than 10% of participants in these three groups conduct inspections twice a year or annually. According to respondents, the majority of offices (36.1%) engage in monthly inspections. For offices, the second most common inspection frequency is weekly (22.4%) with twice a year at 12.1% and annually at 14.8% — higher than any of the other types of sites.



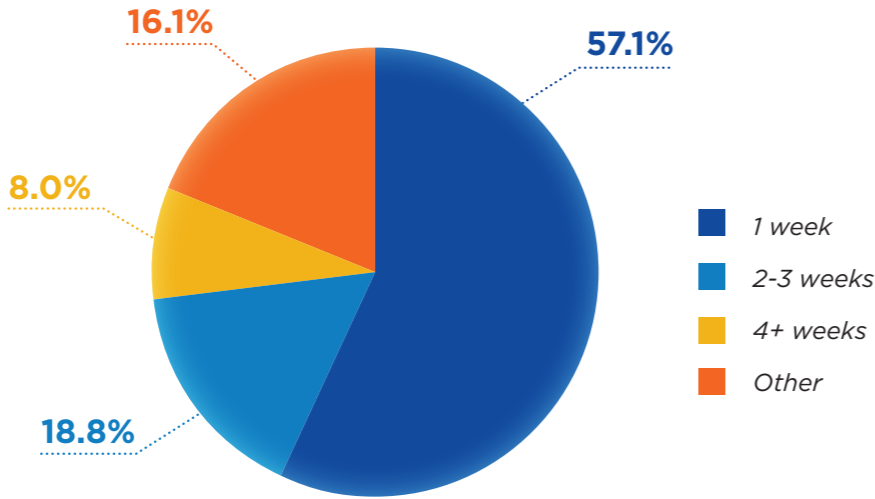
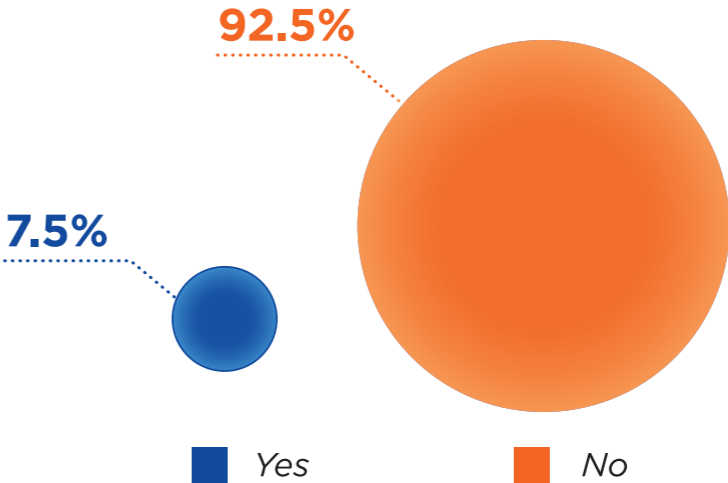
## DO YOU CONDUCT SAFETY AUDITS?

An overwhelming majority of respondents (86.7%) said that yes, they conduct safety audits. Only 13.3% said they do not.



## DO YOU RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDING IF YOU MAINTAIN SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS?

Only 7.5% of respondents indicated that they receive government funding because they maintain safety and compliance key performance indicators. 92.5% do not receive government funding for that reason.



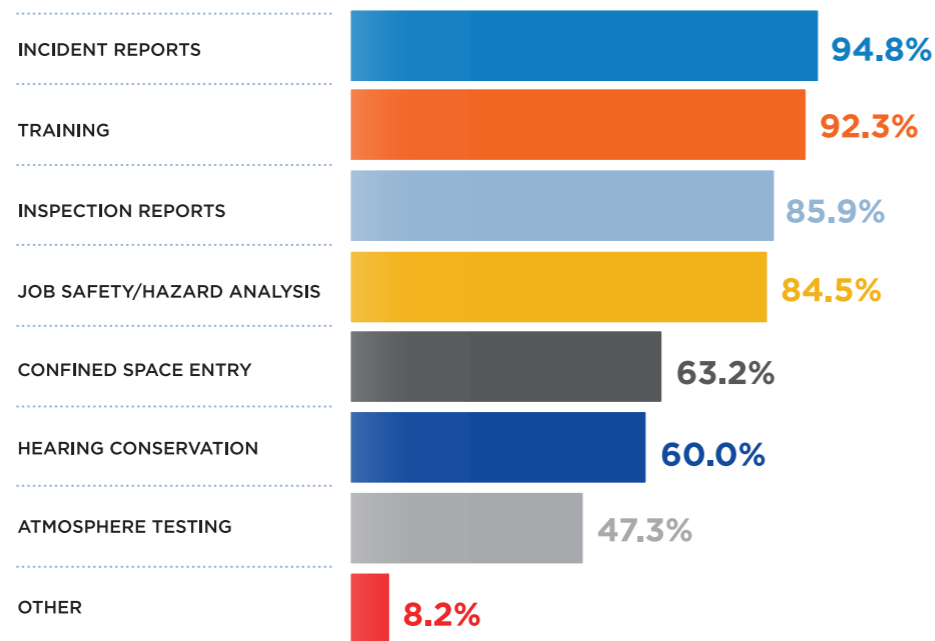
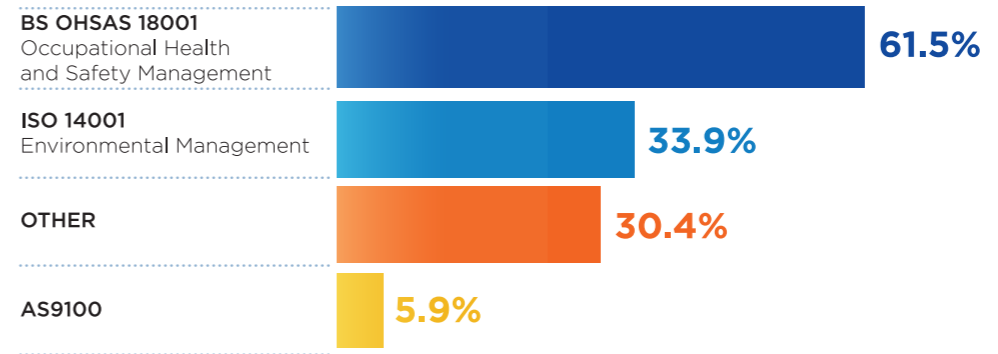
## HOW MUCH TIME DOES IT TAKE YOU TO PREPARE FOR SAFETY AUDITS?

Most participants (57.1%) said they take 1 week to prepare for a safety audit. 18.8% said it takes them 2-3 weeks to prepare, while only 8% reported taking four or more weeks to prepare. 16.1% of participants answered “other,” with the most common response being “less than a week” or that they “don’t perform safety audits.”

## WHICH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ARE ADHERED TO IN YOUR ORGANIZATION?

The majority of survey takers (61.5%) said they adhere to the BS OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety performance standard. 33.9% of participants said they adhere to ISO 14001 Environmental Management performance standards. Only 5.9% said they adhere to the AS9100 performance standards. Nearly one third (30.4%) answered “other.” Some of the common “other” responses are:

- We don't know
- ISO 9001:2008
- ISO 13485
- Various state-specific standards
- Our own standards

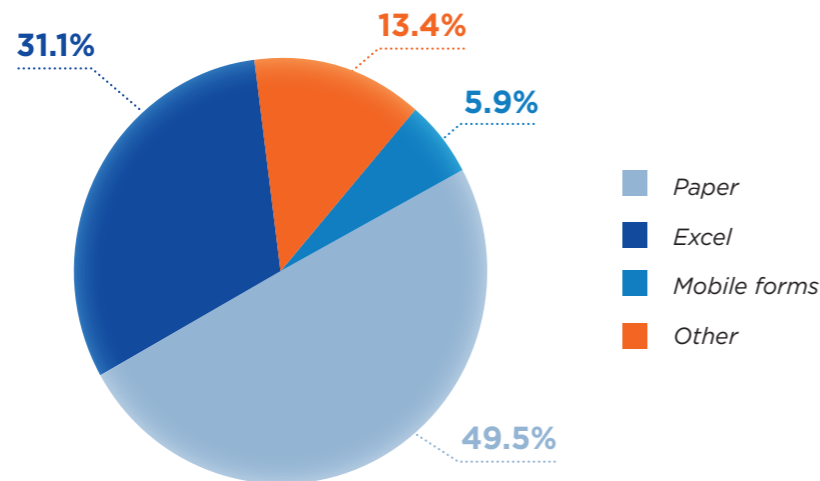
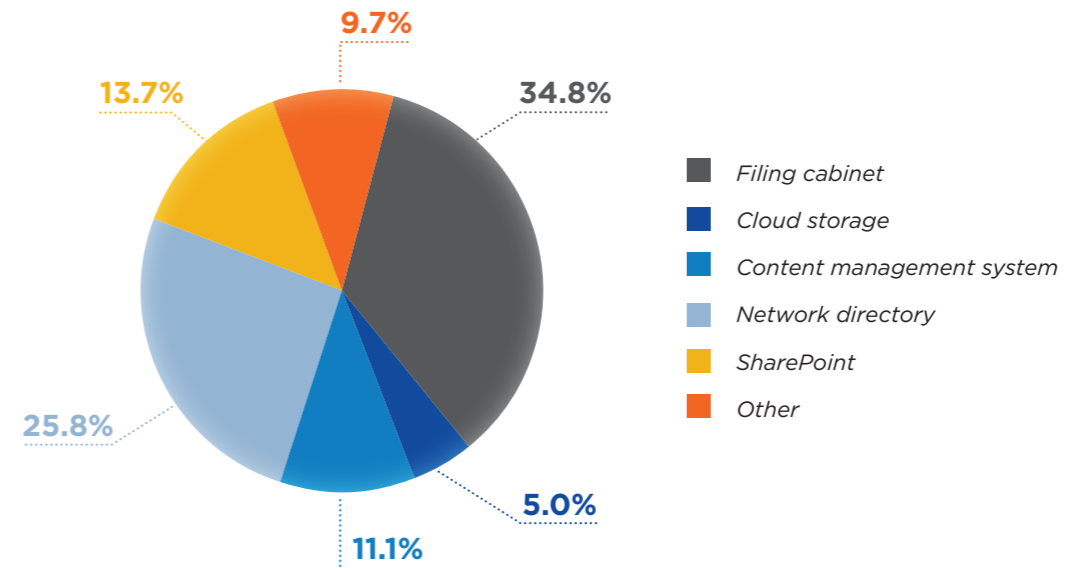


## CHECK ALL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY FORMS USED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION.

Incident and training forms received the highest two sets of responses. 94.8% of all respondents said they make use of incident report forms, and 92.3% make use of training forms. Additionally, inspection report forms (85.9%) and job safety/hazard analysis forms (84.5%) are used by about the same number of respondents. 63.2% of those polled use confined space entry forms, and 60% use hearing conservation forms. The lowest percentage of participants use atmosphere testing forms, at 47.3%.

## WHERE DO YOU STORE AND SHARE YOUR COMPLETED FORMS?

About a third of respondents (34.8%) rely on the tried-and-true filing cabinet for their form storage and sharing needs. About a quarter (25.8%) use a network directory for the storage and sharing. Only 13.7% use SharePoint, and only 11.1% use a content management system. There were more “other” responses (9.7%) than there were those who said they use cloud storage (5%).



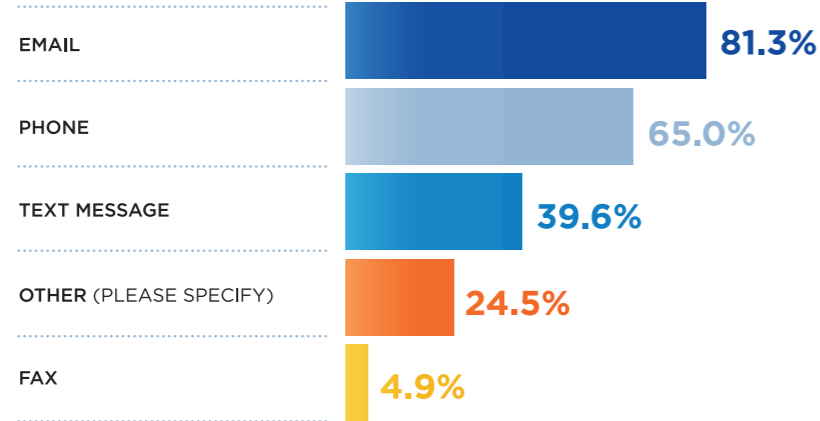
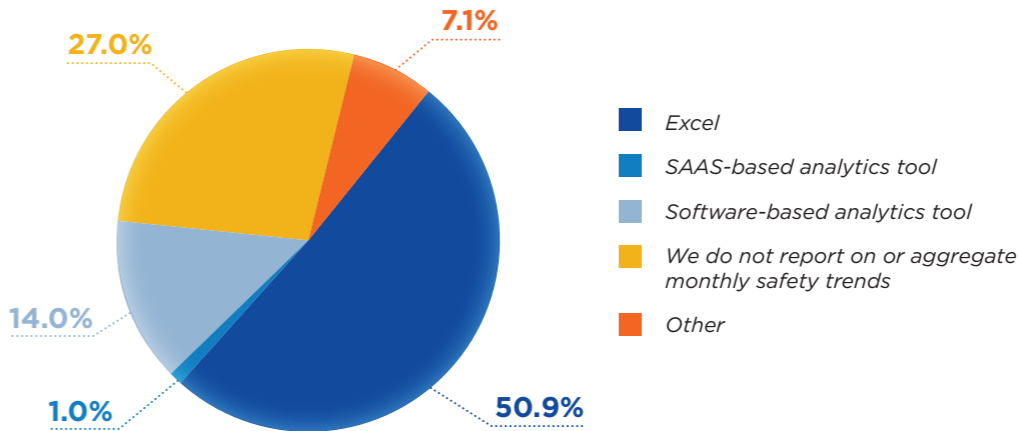
## WHAT DO YOU USE TO COMPLETE FORMS?

Nearly half (49.5%) of the survey takers said they use paper to complete forms. 31.1% said they use Excel, and only 5.9% said they use mobile forms. Of the 13.4% of people that answered “other,” the overwhelming majority of them use some sort of combination of paper, Excel, and mobile devices or said “all of the above” in respect to the original choices.



# WHAT DO YOU USE TO REPORT ON AGGREGATE MONTHLY SAFETY TRENDS?

It seems that the majority of respondents either use Excel to report on aggregate monthly safety trends (50.9%), or they simply do not report such things (27% said this). 14% say they use a software-based analytics tool, and only 1% use software as a service (SaaS) to make such reports.

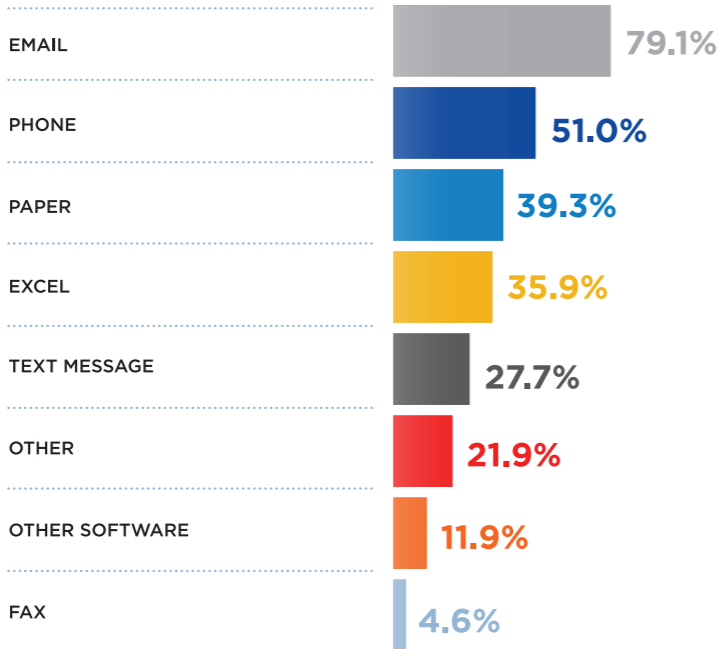
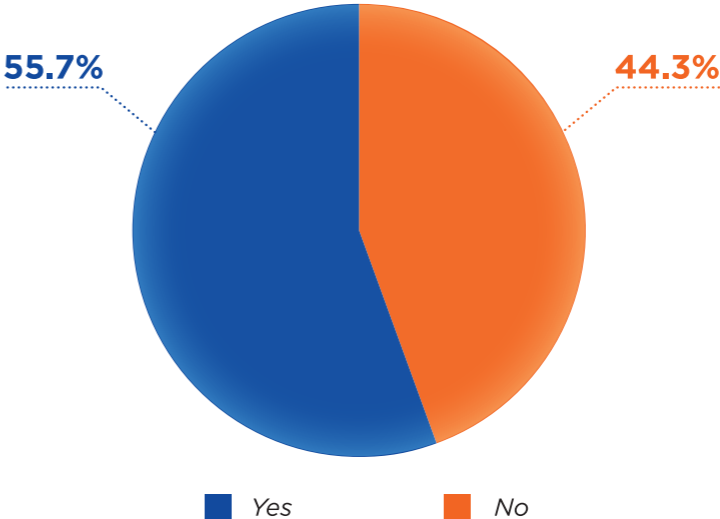


# HOW ARE YOU NOTIFIED OF SITE SAFETY ISSUES? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

E-mail is clearly the number one way that survey takers are notified of site safety issues at 81.3%. Phones come in second at 65%, and text messages are third at 39.6%. Only 4.9% of participants said that they are ever faxed notifications of site safety regulations. Quite a few respondents answered “other” for this question. The single most common answer for “other” was “in person” and a distant second response was “monthly meetings.”

## DO YOU OR OTHER EMPLOYEES USE SMARTPHONES OR TABLETS FOR ANY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY TASKS?

The slight majority of respondents (55.7%) said that no, they don't use smartphones or tablets for any of their environmental and safety tasks. 44.3% said they do.



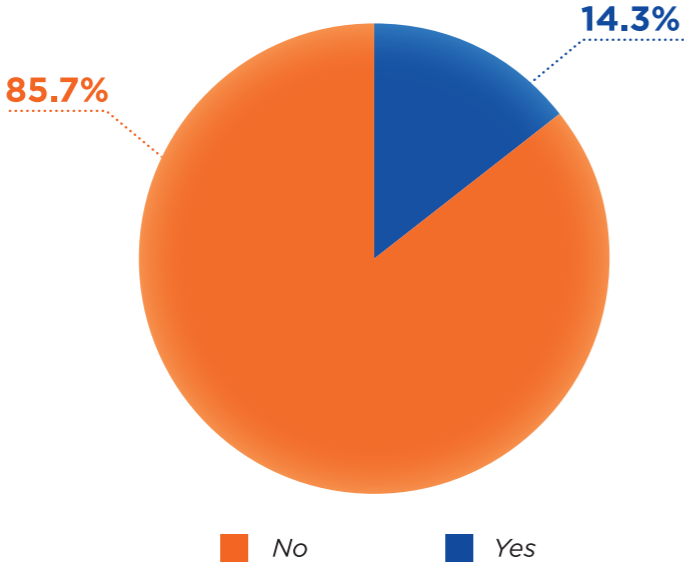
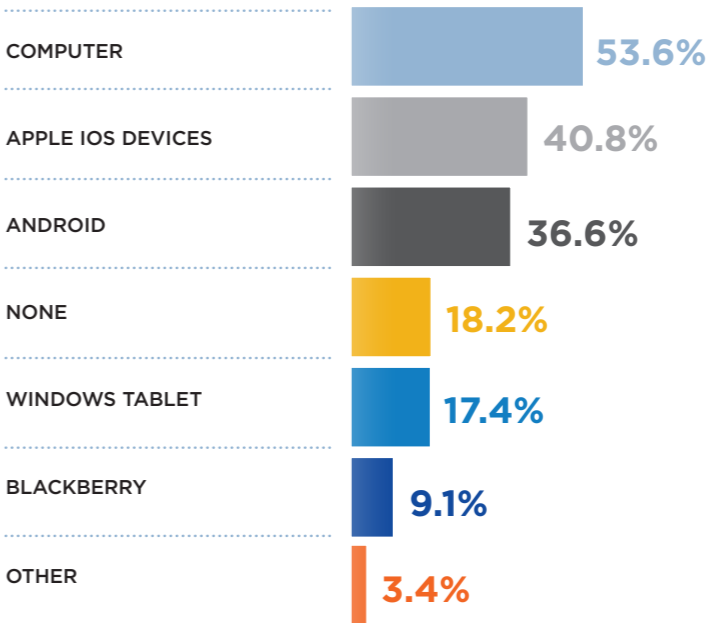
## WHAT DO YOU USE TO TRACK FOLLOW-UPS TO THOSE SAFETY ISSUES? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

Email is again the winner when it comes to tracking follow-ups to safety issues at 79.1%. Coming in second is the phone at 51%, and third is paper at 39.3%. Next, 35.9% use Excel, and 27.7% use text messages to track follow-ups to safety issues. Finally, 33.3% said they use "other" methods to track follow-ups. Some of the most common "other" answers were:

- In person
- During meetings
- SAP

## WHAT TYPES OF DEVICES ARE YOUR FIELD WORKERS USING? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

The majority of respondents (53.6%) have field workers using computers. 40.8% use Apple iOS devices while 36.6% use Android devices. More people use no devices (18.2%) than use Windows tablets (17.4%) or the BlackBerry (9.1%).



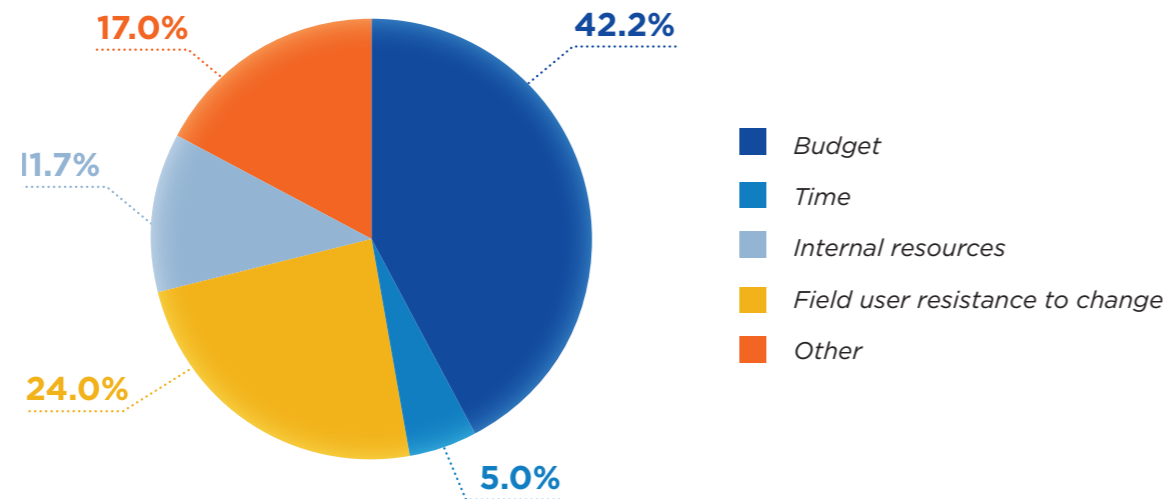
## DO YOU HAVE A MOBILE SAFETY APPLICATION DEPLOYED IN THE FIELD?

Only 14.3% said that yes, they have a mobile safety application deployed in the field whereas the overwhelming majority (85.7%) said they do not.

## IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY USING A MOBILE APPLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING YOU BELIEVE TO BE BARRIERS TO DEPLOYING A MOBILE SOLUTION.

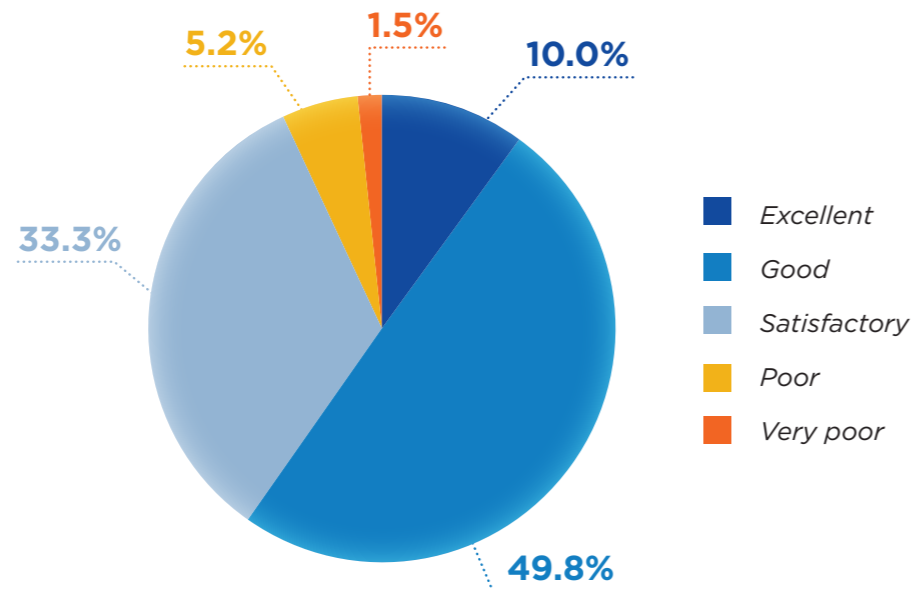
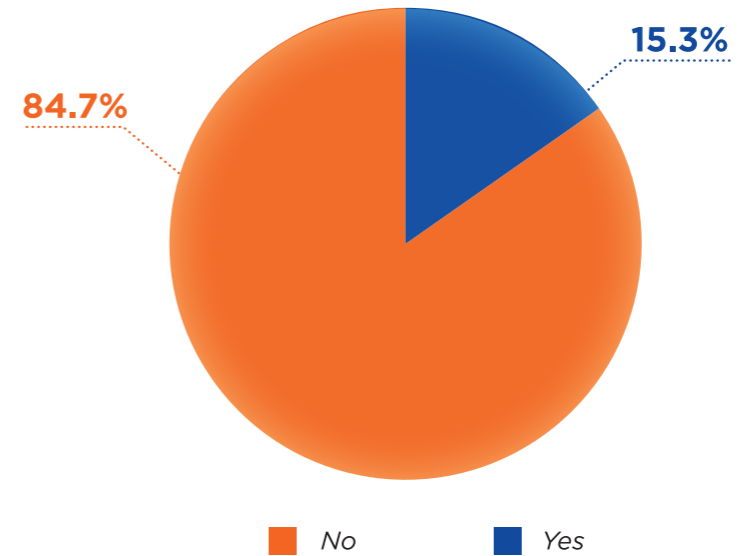
Money and resources, not time, are clearly major factors in preventing companies from implementing mobile solutions in the field. The number one barrier that respondents feel is blocking their use of mobile solutions in the field is budget (42.2%). A distant second (24%) is internal resources. Only 11.7% feel that field users being too resistant to change is a reason not to use mobile solutions, and even fewer respondents (5%) said that time was a factor. 17% of respondents answered “other”. “Other” answers include:

- Users are not trained in such things
- The organization is too small
- Concern that mobile applications might be a dangerous distraction
- We don't need it



## HAVE YOU TRIED/TESTED A MOBILE SAFETY APPLICATION FOR FIELD USE?

Just about the same percentage of respondents (15.3%) said “yes” to this question as said “yes” to the previous one. Like-wise, about the same percentage (84.7%) said no, they had not tried or tested a mobile safety application in the field.

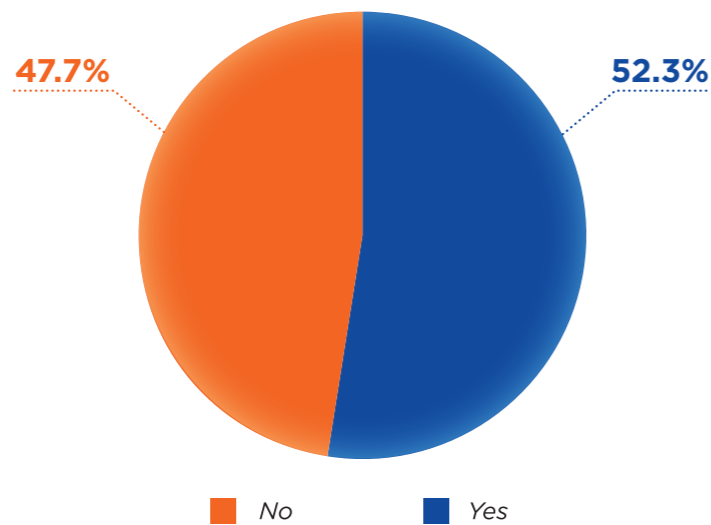
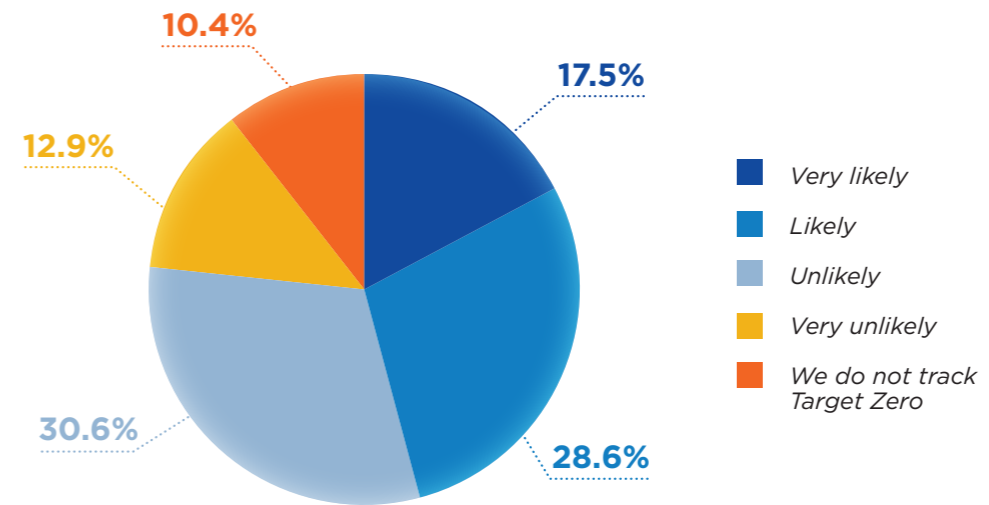


## PLEASE RATE THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR SAFETY-REPORTING PROGRAM.

As with similar questions, the overwhelming majority (93.3%) of respondents answered that they are at least “satisfied” with the effectiveness of their safety-reporting program. Only 5.2% of respondents said that their safety-reporting program is “poor,” and 1.5% said it is “very poor.”

## WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL REACH TARGET ZERO FOR SAFETY INCIDENTS WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR?

Responses were mixed to this question. 30.6% of participants said it is “unlikely” that their organization will reach Target Zero for safety incidents within the next year, while 28.6% said it is “likely”. 17.5% said it is “very likely” and 12.9% said it is “very unlikely”. Finally, 10.4% of respondents said that they “do not track Target Zero”.



## WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A SYSTEM THAT AUTOMATICALLY SHARES SAFETY INSPECTION RESULTS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS?

Answers to this question show a clear divide in whether automatically sharing safety inspection results with shareholders is worth it. 47.7% said “no” and 52.3% said “yes”.

## SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

A total of 517 safety professionals participated in the survey. Demographic information describing our response pool includes the following findings:

## CONCLUSION

Our 2015 Can Technology Make Safety Simpler and More Effective? survey sponsored by ProntoForms illuminates how safety professionals are navigating their everyday safety duties. Our response pool has great confidence that their existing safety procedures and protocols are at the very least satisfactory. The use of technology in general seems to be fairly widespread and used in combination with more traditional methods. The use of technology in the field is far less widespread—especially the use of mobile applications.

When asked why they might not be using mobile applications in the field, large percentages of our respondents pointed mostly to costs and resources. It would seem that if the cost of moving towards mobile applications in the field were lower and less resources were required to get people up to speed, mobile applications would be adopted by many more safety professionals.

## ORGANIZATION SIZE

Respondents in this survey include HSE professionals working across industries in companies ranging from SMBs to large enterprises with over 5,000 employees. This ensures that a broad spectrum of perspectives and experiences are reflected in the results.

	PERCENTAGE
5,000+ EMPLOYEES	11.1%
1,000-4,999 EMPLOYEES	14.6%
500-999 EMPLOYEES	11.4%
250-499 EMPLOYEES	11.9%
100-249 EMPLOYEES	20.1%
50-99 EMPLOYEES	13.5%
1-49 EMPLOYEES	17.5%

Numbers might not add up to 100% due to rounding

## INDUSTRY

25.1% of our survey participants represent the manufacturing industry, with construction coming in second at 14.5%. Respondents from the government made up 9.8%, while oil and gas extraction made up 5.5%. Among the approximately 22.8% of respondents who answered “other” for this question specified their industries as:

- Engineering
- Aerospace
- Waste Management
- Gambling
- Forestry

INDUSTRY	PERCENTAGE
MANUFACTURING	25.1%
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	22.8%
CONSTRUCTION	14.5%
GOVERNMENT	9.8%
HEALTH CARE	6.1%
OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION	5.5%
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	4.7%
UTILITIES	4.2%
EDUCATION SERVICES	2.6%
ENERGY	2.6%
AUTOMOTIVE	2.1%

## POSITION

Of all the positions held by our survey participants, the largest percentage (26.7%) identified themselves as Safety Managers. The next largest percentage (14.8%) are Safety Professionals. 21.6% of the respondents selected “other” – the most popular business titles included:

- Safety Coordinator
- EHS Manager
- HR Manager
- Project Manager

TITLE	PERCENTAGE
SAFETY MANAGER	26.7%
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	21.6%
SAFETY PROFESSIONAL	14.8%
SAFETY DIRECTOR	12.1%
SAFETY SUPERVISOR/PROJECT MANAGER	8.6%
SAFETY CONSULTANT	5.1%
SAFETY EXECUTIVE	3.2%
SAFETY INTERMEDIATE	3.2%
GENERAL MANAGER/OWNER	3.0%
SAFETY ENGINEER	1.6%

Numbers might not add up to 100% due to rounding



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