

# Notified fatalities

## July to December 2017

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) and the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) report monthly to Safe Work Australia about notified fatalities that have occurred at a workplace or resulted from a work activity. This report includes fatalities resulting from work related trauma at the workplace only—a full explanation is provided at the end of the report.







### Main issues

- Queensland notified 12 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period July to December 2017.
- Nine of the fatalities were male workers and three were female workers.
- The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector had the highest number of fatalities (six).
- Being trapped between stationary and moving objects (three) and rollover (two) were the most common mechanism groups with five fatalities reported in total.
- North and Central Queensland had the highest number of fatalities (seven).



### Summary tables

The charts and graphs in this summary provide fatality data for the period July to December 2017.




### Fatalities by industry

Industry					
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	6		Manufacturing	1
	Transport, postal and warehousing	2		Health care and social assistance	1
	Arts and recreation services	1		Construction	1
<b>Total 12 fatalities</b>					

## Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	9
	Female	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>

## Fatalities by region

Region		
	North and Central Queensland	7
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	4
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>

## Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism	Total
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	3
Rollover	2
Being hit by moving objects	2
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	2
Exposure to environmental heat	1
Stepping, kneeling or sitting on objects	1
Being hit by falling objects	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

## Fatalities by occupation

Occupation	Total
Farm workers	4
Mobile plant operators	2
Bystanders	2
Truck driver (general)	1
Sugar mill worker	1
Beef cattle farmer	1
Outdoor adventure guides (not elsewhere classified)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

## Narratives

Narrative data provides a basic description of what caused the fatal incident. This data can be used to identify common factors that bring about fatal incidences and therefore the types of risks that need to be identified and controlled.

The below summaries of fatal incidents indicate circumstances that should be avoided in a workplace.

Note: Industry coding of fatalities in this report is based on the incident location, not the industry of the employer. These may be different.

### Agriculture, forestry and fishing

#### North and Central Queensland

A 24 year old male sugar cane bin hauler was crushed between a bin hauler and fuel truck.

A male worker was welding a pressurised semi-trailer tyre, when the tyre exploded causing fatal injuries.

A male farm worker has died as a result of heat exposure/exhaustion and dehydration.

A male worker has tried to turn a tractor on roadway adjacent to a steep incline. Wheels have gone over the embankment and tractor tipped over, crushing the driver.

#### Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male farm worker was observed driving a grader east bound along the northern side on an irrigation channel on the farm. The grader was observed upside down in the irrigation channel. First aid and emergency services attended and attempted to rescue the worker but he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

A German backpacker was operating a ride on mower with a trailer attached to the rear. The deceased female (also a German backpacker) was a passenger on the mower. The mower rolled down a slope and came to rest on its right hand side against a tree. The backpacker was trapped underneath the mower and against the tree and suffered fatal injuries.

### Arts and recreation services

#### Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A 15 year old male was lifting weights alone in a gym when the bar came down across his neck. He was transported to hospital and his life support was turned off later.

### Construction

#### Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male elevating work platform operator was crushed between the cage and steel purlins of the roof.

### Health care and social assistance

#### Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A female resident at a nursing home had an unwitnessed fall. She was found to be lying on the bathroom floor, hit her head and found to have bleeding from the posterior part of the head. She died as a result of her injuries.

### Manufacturing

#### North and Central Queensland

A female employee was struck by a cane bin while carrying out shunting operations at the siding.

### Transport, postal and warehousing

#### North and Central Queensland

A male worker was driving a forklift off a truck and was not wearing a seat belt. The motion of the forklift hitting the trailer ramps caused the deceased to be ejected from his seat and he received fatal injuries as he was struck by the roll frame.

A male worker suffered fatal crush injuries when the prime mover he was driving crashed and overturned.

## Considerations

'Being trapped between stationary and moving objects' and 'rollover' were the most common mechanisms of injury in this period.

Further information regarding being trapped between stationary and moving objects and rollover can be obtained from the following:

- Operator thrown and killed in bulldozer rollover
- Between a rock and a hard place - Garry's story
- Forklifts
- Workers injured when concrete pipe toppled over
- Worker crushed under his own truck while unloading on a slope
- Worker fatally crushed by prime mover
- How to manage work health and safety risks Code of Practice 2011 (PDF, 1.0 MB)
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace Code of Practice 2013 (PDF, 1.0 MB)
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

## About this report

The fatalities data set used in this report includes fatalities resulting from a work related traumatic injury, as defined by legislation. This may involve:

- employees
- self-employed workers/contractors
- fatalities occurring at a private residence where work activity was involved, such as a person working from home or work carried out on a house by a contractor
- fatalities caused by work where the death occurs in hospital rather than at the workplace
- homicide where there is a close nexus with work
- work related road traffic fatalities on public
- bystanders, such as visitors to a workplace, who die as a consequence of work activity.

The categories listed below are not included in the fatalities data set, regardless of whether work related factors can be identified:

- commuting fatalities (travelling to or from work)
- injuries where the worker died due to medical intervention
- natural causes such as heart attacks and strokes (except where a work related injury was the direct cause of the heart attack or stroke)
- diseases including cancers and mesothelioma
- self-inflicted injuries (suicide).

The fatalities detailed in this report are those that occurred between July and December 2017 that WHSQ reported to Safe Work Australia. Further investigation of any of these incidents could reveal additional information that may deem an incident to be non-work related. WHSQ reports any changes to notified fatalities to Safe Work Australia.

## Notes

The approximately 100 workplace fatalities per year regularly compensated by the Queensland workers' compensation scheme includes injuries due to commuting fatalities (travelling to or from work) and diseases in addition to fatalities resulting from work related traumatic injuries.

For more information on work health and safety, visit [worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://worksafe.qld.gov.au) or call 1300 362 128.

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