



Notified fatalities report

July to December 2022

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 13 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period July to December 2022.
- Of these 13 fatalities
 - nine (9) were workers and four (4) were bystanders
 - 11 fatalities were male and two (2) were female.
- The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the highest number of fatalities at four (4) followed by the construction industry at two (2) fatalities and the transport, postal and warehousing industry at two (2) fatalities.
- Being hit by moving objects (3) and drowning or immersion (2) were the most common mechanism groups.
- North and Central Queensland had seven (7) fatalities, Southwest, Logan, and Gold Coast had four (4) and Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay region had two (2) fatalities.

Summary tables



The charts and graphs in this summary provide fatality data for the period July to December 2022.

Fatalities by industry

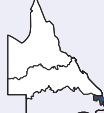

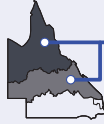
Industry					
	Accommodation and food services	1		Manufacturing	1
	Administrative and support services	1		Professional, scientific and technical services	1
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4		Transport, postal and warehousing	2
	Construction	2		Wholesale trade	1
Total 13 fatalities					



Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	11
	Female	2
Total		13

Fatalities by region

Region		
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	2
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	4
	North and Central Queensland	7
Total		13

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism		
Being hit by moving objects		3
Drowning/Immersion		2
Being hit by falling objects		1
Rollover		1
Explosion		1
Falls from a height		1
Falls on the same level		1
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment		1
Being bitten by an animal		1
Contact with electricity		1
Total		13

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation	
Not applicable—bystander	3
Agricultural and horticultural mobile plant operator	1
Roof tilers	1
Crane chaser	1
Motorcycle mechanic	1
Diesel motor mechanic	1
Other clerical and office support workers	1
Earthmoving plant operator (general)	1
Surveyors and spatial scientists	1
Farmers and farm managers	1
Loader operator	1
Total	13

Narratives

Narrative data provides a basic description of what led to 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).

Accommodation and food services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male patron tripped and fell from a step at a restaurant, resulting in serious head and spinal injuries.

Administrative and support services

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker attended a residence to read the electricity meter. Once within the yard he was attacked by two dogs that fatally injured him.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A female worker was working at a property driving a large loader machine to move heavy weights using the loader forks. She was working alone when it appears the machine drove over a wide rut that caused the loader to drop one of the weights onto the ground. It appears that the driver opened the left side door to investigate or get down while the vehicle was still moving slowly. She appears to have either fallen or tripped and landed on the road, and it is also believed that the rear tyre of the loader may have clipped her head.

North and Central Queensland

A male worker was attempting to start a tractor while at ground level by reaching into the cabin of the tractor. The tractor was 'in gear' and lunged forward. This fatally trapped the worker between the tractor's left side back tyre and a farming implement [trommel].

A male worker was working with his father to unload a truck at a remote cattle property when he sustained fatal injuries. He was on top of the truck unfastening the load and he fell. Shortly afterwards the load of steel pipes from the truck fell onto him.

A male worker was a driver of a cane bin hauler-vehicle that at some point rolled on top of him and crushed him. He was found under the vehicle and he was not breathing.

Construction

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker was to carry out repair works on a leaking roof at the rear of a workshop. Soon after he arrived, he was observed to place a ladder from his work vehicle on one side of the workshop's gutter. The worker then ascended to the roof. CCTV showed that no fall protection/harness was attached to him. At some point the worker lost his footing and fell off the roof.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker was performing work as part of building an asphalt driveway when he was struck by powered mobile plant. He suffered serious injuries and despite treatment from the Queensland Ambulance Service he died at the scene.

Manufacturing

North and Central Queensland

A male worker was the 'dogman' assisting a crane to manoeuvre a metal frame into place on a concrete slab for a large shed being constructed. The steel frame came into contact with a 22,000-volt overhead power line. As a result the worker was electrocuted and died at the scene.

Professional, scientific and technical services

North and Central Queensland

A male worker was employed as a surveyor. He was conducting work on a development road south of a town when he was struck by a reversing water truck and sustained fatal crush injuries.

Transport, postal and warehousing

North and Central Queensland

A female reef cruise passenger collapsed at the bottom of a snorkel platform after snorkelling with a friend. The passenger told her friend that she wasn't feeling well, so her friend went to ask for help. A few minutes later the snorkel alarm sounded as the passenger was found face down in the water.

A male passenger was on a snorkelling/reef trip vessel which anchored at a reef. The passenger was snorkelling when at some point he was found unresponsive in the water. He was removed from the water and the crew commenced CPR. While returning to dock a doctor and paramedic arrived on board, but they were unsuccessful in their efforts to resuscitate the passenger.

Wholesale trade

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker who was a first-year diesel mechanic apprentice was observed carrying an angle grinder into a room at the truck workshop. The room was used to temporarily store used coolant, diesel and oil filters that are removed from trucks during servicing and mechanical work, along with general rubbish inside large bins. The worker was heard using the angle grinder which instantly caused an explosion. It was found that the worker used the angle grinder to cut a drum within the room.

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 roads
- 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 2022 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 approximate 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 or call **1300 362 128**.

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