



Notified fatalities report

January to June 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 18 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period January to June 2022.
- Of these 18 fatalities
 - 14 were workers and four (4) were bystanders
 - 15 were male and three (3) were female.
- The Construction industry had the highest number of fatalities at four (4), followed by the Manufacturing industry at three (3) fatalities.
- Being hit by moving objects (7), falls from a height (3), being trapped by moving machinery or equipment (2), and drowning or immersion (2) were the most common mechanism groups.
- Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay region had eight (8) fatalities, Southwest, Logan, and Gold Coast had seven (7) and North and Central Queensland had three (3) fatalities each within their respective regions.

Summary tables


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

Fatalities by industry

Industry			
 Accommodation and food services	1	 Manufacturing	3
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2	 Public administration and safety	1
 Arts and recreation services	1	 Rental, hiring and real estate services	1
 Construction	4	 Retail trade	1





Industry




 Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1	 Transport, postal and warehousing	2
 Health care and social assistance	1		

Total 18 fatalities

Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	15
	Female	3
Total		18

Fatalities by region

Region		
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	8
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	7
	North and Central Queensland	3
Total		18

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism	
Being hit by moving objects	7
Falls from a height	3
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	2
Drowning/Immersion	2
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	1
Contact with electricity	1
Falls on the same level	1
Single contact with chemical or substance	1
Total	18

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation	
Not applicable—bystander	4
Motor mechanics	2
Forklift driver	1
Floor finishers	1
Concreters	1
Electrical distribution trades workers	1
Food and drink factory workers	1
Electrician (general)	1
Metal fitters and machinists	1
Beef cattle farm worker	1
Roof tilers	1
Fire and emergency workers	1
Agricultural, forestry and horticultural plant operators	1
Fitter and turner	1
Total	18

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

North and Central Queensland

A female patron fell backwards and hit her head after glass entry doors closed on her when exiting a tavern. She was caught in the automatic doors, then fell and hit her head, causing fatal injuries.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male farm worker stopped his vehicle at a gate near a bore. He engaged low range gear and allowed the vehicle to idle in first gear, causing it to creep forward. As he exited the vehicle and attempted to open the steel gate, he became trapped between the vehicle's bull bar and the centre of the gate. He was unable to open the gate or stop the vehicle and remained trapped for many hours until he was discovered. He died of his injuries a short time after being tended to by paramedics.

North and Central Queensland

It appears that a male worker was driven over by both the rear driver's side wheel of a tractor and a slasher. The slasher blades made contact on his body after being run over by the tractor. As a result, he suffered fatal injuries.

Arts and recreation services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male client was participating in an advanced open water course onboard a dive training vessel, with 12 clients and four crew. The male client was part of a group of four to enter the water, including a trainer from the dive vessel. The trainer noticed the male client was away from the safety line and swam over to him. The trainer swam back toward the boat with the male client and observed that he stopped kicking and his eyes opened wide and then closed. CPR was administered on the boat and until it reached the shore. Paramedics were unable to resuscitate the male client and he was pronounced deceased.

Construction

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

An electrician repairing an air conditioning system in a residential property was fatally electrocuted in the ceiling space.

A male worker was undertaking concreting work on a residential driveway. A bobcat operator was spreading newly delivered stones on a different part of the driveway. The operator reversed the bobcat over the male worker, causing fatal injuries.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male was working inside a building, grinding concrete in readiness for new floor coverings to be laid. His equipment required an independent power source and the generator being used was petrol driven. It is suspected he succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning due to the enclosed environment.

A male worker employed to replace the roof on a building was lifted onto the roof by a scissor lift. While he was walking on the roof, he fell 7.5 metres through a skylight and was fatally injured.

Electricity, gas, water and waste services

North and Central Queensland

A male worker who was working with power poles was fatally injured when a truck driver reversed and ran over him.

Health care and social assistance

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A personal care worker who was the regular carer of a female client, was being assisted by another carer to move the client from her mobile shower chair to her wheelchair using a sling hoist. After the client was seated in her chair, the carers removed the sling loops from the hoist and moved the hoist backwards. The client lost her balance and fell to the floor, causing fatal injuries.

Manufacturing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A forklift driver was performing work at a dry mill using a five-tonne forklift and was moving an empty scrap metal bin. As he rounded a corner between a kiln and the sawmill he struck and killed a male maintenance worker.

A male worker was repairing a conveyor for plant which cuts and powder coats aluminium products. Information suggests he was using a platform ladder to perform maintenance to the cross beams/metal bars of a mechanical powder coating machine. At some point his upper body became entangled between the moving/rotating metal bars. He fell from about 2.5 metres onto the concrete floor below, causing fatal head injuries.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker was cleaning a production line. He leaned under a roller to clean under a machine when his uniform caught onto a cog which pulled him toward the machine. He was caught up for seven minutes in an upright position and with his uniform tight around him. When the male worker was found unconscious, staff attempted to resuscitate him, but were not successful. Paramedics were called but were also unable to resuscitate him.

Public administration and safety

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

Four SES workers were deployed to assist a troop carrier towing a flood boat. The vehicle appeared to be swept off the road and subsequently became fully submerged in flood waters. Three workers were rescued downstream by a responding Fire and Rescue team. One female worker was later found fatally injured.

Rental, hiring and real estate services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male visitor who was leaving an accountancy firm asked to use the bathroom. Staff told him to use the shared bathrooms near the elevators. He mistakenly entered through an incorrect door which led to an unused stairwell. Upon entering the stairwell, he attempted to exit by pulling on the door handle which gave way. He fell backwards down the stairs and consequently died from a suspected head injury.

Retail trade

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker was working inside a shipping container preparing for the unloading of railway axles when he became pinned inside the container by an axle and suffered fatal crush injuries.

Transport, postal and warehousing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

Two male workers were working on a broken-down bus on the side of a main road. Parked behind the bus was a minibus driven by one of the workers. The two workers were struck by an oncoming car and both were fatally injured. The driver of the car was taken to hospital and deemed to be under the influence of drugs.

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 January and June 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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