

Notified fatalities

January to June 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 14 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period January to June 2017.
- Fourteen of the fatalities were male workers.
- Transport, postal and warehousing; and Agriculture, forestry and fishing had the highest number of fatalities (three in each industry).
- Being hit by moving objects (three), vehicle accident (three) and being trapped between stationary and moving objects (three) were the most common mechanism groups with nine fatalities reported in total.
- Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay had the highest number of fatalities (six).



Summary tables

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




Fatalities by industry

Industry		Fatalities	
 Transport, postal and warehousing	3	 Accommodation and food services	2
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3	 Manufacturing	1
 Construction	2	 Retail trade	1
		 Rental, hiring and real estate services	1
		 Electricity, gas, water and waste services	1
Total 14 fatalities			

Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	14
	Female	0
Total		14

Fatalities by region

Region		
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	6
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	5
	North and Central Queensland	3
Total		14

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism	Total
Being hit by moving objects	3
Vehicle accident	3
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects	3
Being hit by falling objects	2
Unspecified mechanisms of injury	1
Falls from a height	1
Drowning/immersion	1
Total	14

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation	Total
Truck drivers	2
Bystanders	2
Handypersons	2
Machine operators (not elsewhere classified)	2
Diesel motor mechanic	1
Construction rigger	1
Retail managers	1
Meat packer	1
Actors, dancers and other entertainers	1
Mixed livestock farm worker	1
Total	14

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.

Accommodation and food services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male person received fatal injuries from a firearm during a film shoot.

A male worker was found deceased in the basement of a building. This person had been working in the basement of the building which was partially filled with water. It is unclear how the worker died.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

The driver of a log truck and trailer had been driving the truck down the range section of the Monto -Gladstone Road when it appears he lost control and the truck has gone over the side of the range.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker was assisting to muster cattle while riding a quad bike. One of his three co-workers noticed the deceased's quad bike was upside down with the deceased trapped underneath.

A worker performing maintenance on a chipping machine was hit in the head by a steel cover off the chipper while attempting to lift the cover by use of an excavator. The steel cover has hit the injured worker in the back of his head and then the worker has fallen forwards hitting his head on the machine.

Construction

North and Central Queensland

A stack of three precast concrete piles became unstable and fell on a worker. Each pile is approximately 28 metres long and weighing approximately 18 tonne.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A worker has sustained fatal crush injuries at the rear of an inter-phasing machine at a construction material manufacturing workplace.

Electricity, gas, water and waste services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A diesel mechanic was fatally injured when the cabin of the truck (under which he was performing mechanical duties) fell on him crushing him across the chest area.

Manufacturing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker was assisting the unloading of pigs from a semi-trailer when the steel ramp he was standing on moved crushing his head between the moving part and a fixed beam.

Rental, hiring and real estate services

North and Central Queensland

A male non-residential property operator fell from a ladder located on the second floor landing at the rear of a commercial business that the deceased owns with his family.

Retail trade

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A delivery vehicle ran over a male worker subsequently causing fatal injuries.

Transport, postal and warehousing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A truck carrying molasses was involved in a traffic accident with another vehicle in which a man who was the sole occupant was killed.

North and Central Queensland

A male member of the public was taking part in a guided snorkelling tour when he slumped unnaturally. First aid was rendered but ceased upon direction of medical staff.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker was performing his usual duties which included unloading industrial piping from a truck. One of the pipes that was being unloaded fell from the truck onto the deceased causing his death.

Considerations

'Being hit by moving objects', 'vehicle accident' and 'being trapped between stationary and moving objects' were the most common mechanisms of injury in this period.

Further information regarding being hit by moving objects, vehicle accident and being trapped between stationary and moving objects can be obtained from the following:

- Automotive mechanic run over by vehicle
- Worker run over by forklift
- Heavy vehicles and trailers hitting or crushing workers
- Safe systems to immobilise heavy vehicles and trailers
- Workers injured when concrete pipe toppled over
- Worker crushed under his own truck while unloading on a slope
- Worker crushed by hoist
- Guards and discs on angle grinders
- 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 January and June 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 or call 1300 362 128.



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