

# Electrical Safety Office

## Electrical safety performance report

Q2 2023 - 24

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023 as related to measures within the Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–22.



### Electrical fatalities

Four electrical fatalities reported during Q2.

*Note: electrical fatalities reported remain suspected and under investigation until verified.*

Month of incident	Details
October	Person was driving a tractor atop a dam wall towing a chemical spray rig trailer on a farm when the spray rig contacted an uninsulated 11kV overhead electric line.
	Fatal fire at a residential property in Bundaberg. Reports of an electric scooter battery being involved in the fire.
December	A tree branch came down during a storm, bringing down an overhead line, and landed on a public road. A member of the public has exited their vehicle to remove the branch from the road and was electrocuted.
	A person has sustained fatal injuries from electrocution at a residential property after going to investigate the cause of a tingling sensation to others in an inflatable pool.



### Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

Eight incidents were reported as SEIs under the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ES Act) definition during Q2. This includes the reported electrical fatalities listed above. The other four SEIs were:

Month of incident	Details
November	11-year-old boy received superficial burns to fingers, chest and lip while trying to connect an appliance charger.
	Vacuum digger truck contacted 11KV overhead powerlines. A worker was touching truck frame and received electric shock.
	Roofer standing on roof of a low set house under construction was injured after a 12.7kV conductor was contacted by a metal roof truss being relocated.
	Labourer unclipping existing cables under house received electric shock.

### Compliance activity



- 289 response assessments
- 556 audits completed.

#### Statutory notices:

- 426 improvement notices
- 78 infringement notices
- 26 electrical safety protection notices.

#### Notices related to:

- electrical installation compliance to the Wiring Rules
- requirements for advertisement of electrical work
- general duty for electrical safety
- requirement for electrical work licence
- requirement for electrical contractor licence

- electrical equipment compliance to AS/NZS 3012
- risk management
- other various breaches.

#### Other notices or requirements:

- 45 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

## Audit activity



- 88 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 77 on-site licence checks
- 76 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 48 responsible supplier audits
- 43 ceiling space audits
- eight new electrical equipment audits
- 212 other audits.

## Engagement activity



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 103 organisations
- 1,723 people.

## Licensing committee activity



During Q2, there were 19 licensing referrals to the Electrical Licensing Committee for consideration of disciplinary action as a result of unsafe electrical work and non-compliant practices.

The 19 referrals were made up of nine electrical contractors and 10 electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- serious electrical incident
- person receives an electric shock
- matters involving young workers and electrical apprentices
- other matters.

## Investigation activity



- One investigation finalised
- 10 active investigations.

## Prosecution activity



- One state-wide investigation prosecution finalised
- Eight matters before the courts
- Seven briefs of evidence are currently under review by the Office of Work Health and Safety Prosecutor (OWHSP).

## Licensing and registration activity



1,349 new electrical licences issued:

- 1,055 work licences
- 294 contractor licences.

## Check testing activity



- Three new reports received from test laboratories for room heaters
- 10 new reports received from test laboratories for multi-function cookers.

## Equipment activity



- 17 electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- Nine electrical safety equipment recalls were notified to the ESO.

## Definitions (Notices and other notices or requirements)

**Improvement notice** – a requirement, for the person to whom it is issued, to remedy a contravention of the Act or Regulations.

**Infringement notice** – on the spot fine issued where an infringeable offence has been committed.

**Electrical safety protection notice** – a direction for a person to stop an activity, or use of electrical equipment causing, or likely to cause, an immediate electrical risk to a person or property.

**Unsafe equipment notice** – issued if an inspector reasonably believes that electrical equipment is so defective or hazardous that it is likely to cause a serious electrical incident. This notice requires the owner to make the electrical equipment harmless or incapable of operation.

**Immediate compliance** – a record of contraventions immediately rectified while inspectors are on site.

**Notice (s.74 Electrical Safety Regulation)** – written notice given to the person in control of electrical equipment of any defect affecting the electrical safety of the electrical equipment.



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