

Electrical Safety Office

Electrical Safety Performance Report

Q2 2021–22

This report details Queensland's electrical safety performance for the period 1 October 2021 to 31 December 2021 as related to measures within the Queensland Electrical Safety Board's Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018–22.



Electrical fatalities

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

- One electrical fatality* reported during Q2.

*Another fatality, notified in Q2, is pending as the cause of death is yet to be determined, awaiting autopsy report.

Month of incident	Details
November	A 55-year-old male was found deceased at a commercial premise. The deceased was found lying between machinery on top of an exposed 3 core lead.



Serious electrical incidents (SEI)

- Five incidents were reported as SEIs under the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (ES Act) definition during Q2. This includes the reported electrical fatality listed above. The other SEI's were:

Month of incident	Details
October	An electrical worker, working on batteries associated with a solar PV system, was reported to have incorrectly connected a battery, leading to a short circuit and arc. The worker received burns to his hands.
	A person installing roof gutter guarding on a shed roof sustained an electric shock after contacting an overhead 11kV SWER powerline. The worker suffered serious electrical burn injuries.
November	A metal concrete pumping arm contacted 11kV conductors. Two workers received electric shocks. One of the workers received burns.
	A person was reported to have received an electric shock from 3 phase conductors while working on a vehicle hoist. The person appears to have fallen from a ladder (fatality – cause of death to be determined, awaiting autopsy report).

Compliance activity



- 277 response assessments conducted
- 561 audits completed.

Statutory notices:

- 412 improvement notices
- 71 infringement notices
- 33 electrical safety protection notices
- one non-disturbance notice.

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
- risk management
- other various breaches.

Other notices or requirements

- 19 notices issued under Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 s.74 – Requirement for a person in control of electrical equipment to fix defects
- 51 contraventions involving immediate compliance.

Audit activity includes:



- 137 electrical contractor audits (systems and site verification)
- 107 construction site audits (wiring, exclusion zones and principal contractor processes)
- 74 on-site licence checks
- 87 ceiling space audits
- 56 other various audits.

Engagement activity:



ESO undertook engagement activities with over:

- 110 organisations
- 380 people.

Licensing committee activity:



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

The eight referrals were made up of four electrical contractors and four electrical workers, with referrals relating to:

- young workers and electrical apprentices
- a serious electrical incident
- people who received an electric shock
- obtaining an electrical work licence by supplying incorrect or misleading information.

Investigation activity:



- Five investigations finalised
- Five active investigations.

Prosecution activity:



- No prosecutions finalised.
- Currently two offenders before the courts awaiting sentencing.
- Two briefs of evidence currently under review by the Office of Work Health and Safety Prosecutor (OWHSP).



Licensing and registration activity:

- 1,283 new electrical licences issued:
 - 953 work licences
 - 330 contractor licences.

Check testing activity:



- 12 test reports received for deep fryers/ frying pans, with two failures noted.

Equipment activity:



- 26 electrical equipment examinations were conducted
- 19 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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