



Notified fatalities report

January to June 2021

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 10 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period January to June 2021.
- Of these 10 fatalities, eight (8) were workers and two (2) bystanders. All fatalities were male.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the highest number of fatalities at four (4), followed by the Construction industry at three (3) fatalities.
- Being hit by moving objects (4), being trapped by moving machinery or equipment (2) and rollover (2) were the most common mechanism groups.
- Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay, and Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast regions both had four (4) fatalities and North and Central Queensland region had two (2).

Summary tables

The charts and graphs in this summary provide fatality data for the period January to June 2021.



Fatalities by industry

Industry	
 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4
 Construction	3
 Administrative and support services	1
 Health care and social assistance	1
 Mining	1

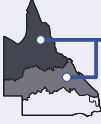
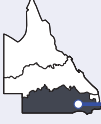

Total 10 fatalities



Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	10
	Female	0
Total		10

Fatalities by region

Region		
	North and Central Queensland	2
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	4
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	4
Total		10

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism		
Being hit by moving objects		4
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment		2
Rollover		2
Contact with, or exposure to, biological factors of non-human origin		1
Falls from a height		1
Total		10

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation		
Not applicable - bystander		2
Excavator operator		2
Agricultural and horticultural mobile plant operator		1
Building and plumbing labourer		1
Dairy cattle farmer		1
Farmers and farm managers		1
Sales representatives not elsewhere classified		1
Tanker driver		1
Total		10

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).

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A deceased male worker was found by other workers in a paddock. It appears the deceased was assisting with the mustering of cattle that were to be transported. The workers commenced a search after he failed to arrive at the agreed meeting point. The deceased was discovered in an earth culvert after a neighbour found a riderless horse.

A worker was run over by a telehandler being used to load fertiliser into a crop-dusting plane on a property with a private airstrip. The telehandler was being operated to load the aircraft with fertiliser when the operator reversed over the worker, resulting in the worker's death.

North and Central Queensland

The deceased took a small spray tractor over to a paddock to do some weed spraying. He also intended to tow out an old vehicle which had broken down. The deceased's son found the small tractor upside down with his father's body lying face down, pinned down by the spray tank.

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

The deceased attempted to line up an 'implement' behind the tractor with his daughter. The deceased asked his father in law to get in the tractor and turn it on and lift the linkage bar so that they could attach the implement. Unbeknownst to the father in law, the tractor was in gear and when turned on it immediately rolled backwards. The tractor pinned the foot of the deceased's daughter so the father in law stopped the tractor and exited. The deceased's daughter freed her foot. The deceased was located underneath the tractor between the rear and front wheels.

Health care and social assistance

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A resident of an aged care facility was diagnosed with Legionella Pneumophila from that facility which resulted in his death.

Administrative and support services

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A worker was fatally injured when he was crushed under his tractor and slasher attachment while performing grass cutting.

Construction

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A bobcat operator picked up a load of crusher dust with the bucket and also added a cement mixer onto the front of the bucket. The bobcat operator began to reverse up a driveway, which was on an incline. The bobcat began to tip forward, running over the operator causing the worker's death.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

The deceased was using a 9-inch angle grinder when the blade disintegrated and hit him in the neck, causing a deep laceration.

North and Central Queensland

A male worker was approaching the Burke River crossing, which consists of a concrete causeway. As he attempted to negotiate a left-hand bend in the road on a slight decline, he lost control of the water truck, which then crossed the causeway and collided with the embankment on the opposite side of the road. This then caused the water truck to roll, ejecting the worker from the driver's seat and pinning him under the rear right wheels of the water truck and causing fatal injuries.

Mining

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker was operating an excavator using a remote-control unit. It appears that the plant stopped working so the worker exited the excavator with the remote-control around his neck and went to investigate. While leaning into the opening of the shredder it appears that the magnetic roller lowered, causing him to be trapped and crushed between the body of the plant and the roller. This resulted in the worker's death.

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 2021 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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