



Notified fatalities report

January to June 2019

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 15 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period January to June 2019.
- Of these 15 fatalities, 11 were male workers, three (3) were male bystanders, and one (1) was a female bystander.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the highest number of fatalities, seven (7).
- Falls from a height and being trapped by moving machinery or equipment, three (3) each, were the most common mechanism groups.
- Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay, and North and Central Queensland regions had the highest number of fatalities with six (6) each.

Summary tables

The charts and graphs in this summary provide fatality data for the period January to June 2019.



Fatalities by industry

Industry					
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	7		Transport, postal and warehousing	2
	Construction	2		Manufacturing	1
	Health care and social assistance	2		Wholesale trade	1
Total 15 fatalities					






Fatalities by gender

Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	14
	Female	1
Total		15

Fatalities by region

Region		
	North and Central Queensland	6
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	2
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	7
Total		15

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism		
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment		3
Falls from a height		3
Being hit by falling objects		2
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects		2
Drowning/immersion		2
Exposure to environmental heat		1
Hitting stationary objects		1
Rollover		1
Total		15

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation		
Farmers		4
Bystanders		4
Technicians and trade workers		2
Agricultural and horticultural mobile plant operator		1
Bulk materials handling plant operator		1
Labourers		1
Tree feller		1
Truck driver		1
Total		15

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.)

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

After being struck by a falling tree limb a tree lopper was found deceased.

North and Central Queensland

A deceased male body was found in a gully underneath a toppled quad bike.

A male worker was performing repairs on a bobcat when the hydraulic boom arms lowered, pinning and crushing him causing fatal injuries.

A male worker was fatally injured when a tree branch he was cutting, fell and struck him in the head.

When a tractor was driven along an embankment, the ground gave way and the tractor rolled down the side, trapping the worker within and causing fatal injuries.

A worker slashing grass with a tractor suffered fatal injuries when a low branch slid across the top of the tractor, broke and fell onto his leg.

A male tractor driver dismounted a tractor while it was still operational and walked around the machine, becoming trapped under the front wheel causing fatal injuries.

Construction

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker died as a result of heat exhaustion after completing his shift.

A male worker fell from scaffolding approximately one metre high, causing fatal injuries.

Health care and social assistance

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A resident of an aged care facility died after falling from a metal chair while showering.

A resident of an aged care facility died after falling from a faulty hoist during a wheelchair-to-bed transfer.

Manufacturing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker was found trapped between a conveyor belt and the air bar at the end of the conveyor causing fatal injuries.

Transport, postal and warehousing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

Two male children went missing during an island tour and were later found deceased.

Wholesale trade

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A forklift operator reversed into a truck driver, pinning him between the forklift and his truck's trailer. The truck driver later died from his injuries.

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 roads
- 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 the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) 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. OIR 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](https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au) or call 1300 362 128.

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State of Queensland 2021

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AEU21/6421