



# Notified fatalities report

## January to June 2020







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 2020.
- Of these 10 fatalities, six (6) were male workers, one (1) a female worker, two (2) were male bystanders and one (1) was a female bystander.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry and the Health care and social assistance industry had the equal highest number of fatalities of three (3) each.
- Being hit by moving objects (4), being hit by an animal (2) and being hit by falling objects (2) were the most common mechanism groups.
- Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay region had four (4) fatalities, North and Central Queensland region five (5), and Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast region three (3).

### Summary tables



The charts and graphs in this summary provide fatality data for the period January to June 2020.

| Industry  |                                     |   |   |                                   |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
|  | Agriculture, forestry and fishing   | 3 |  | Manufacturing                     | 2 |
|  | Health care and social assistance   | 1 |  | Accommodation and food services   | 1 |
|  | Administrative and support services | 2 |  | Transport, postal and warehousing | 1 |




**Total 10 fatalities**



## Fatalities by gender

| Gender  |        |           |
|---|--------|-----------|
|  | Male   | 8         |
|  | Female | 2         |
| <b>Total</b>  |        | <b>10</b> |

## Fatalities by region

| Region  |                                       |           |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | North and Central Queensland          | 3         |
|  | Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast       | 3         |
|  | Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay | 4         |
| <b>Total</b>  |                                       | <b>10</b> |

## Fatalities by incident mechanism

| Incident mechanism                             |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| Being hit by moving objects                    |  | 4         |
| Being hit by an animal                         |  | 2         |
| Being hit by falling objects                   |  | 2         |
| Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment |  | 1         |
| Exposure to environmental heat                 |  | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                                   |  | <b>10</b> |

## Fatalities by occupation

| Occupation  |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| Bystanders  |  | 3         |
| Animal attendants and trainers                                |  | 2         |
| Agricultural and horticultural mobile plant operator          |  | 1         |
| Beef cattle farmer  |  | 1         |
| Chemical, gas, petroleum and power generation plant operators |  | 1         |
| Fast food cook  |  | 1         |
| Truck driver  |  | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>  |  | <b>10</b> |

## 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

#### Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

The owner of a horse breeding establishment was injured while trying to separate two stallions that were fighting. He crashed through a fence and received injuries which lead to a fatal heart attack.

A female worker was bringing yearlings into the stables from a yard. She was later found still attached to the horse by the lead around her wrist to the halter on the horse. It appears that she was fatally struck in the head by a horse while walking it.

#### North and Central Queensland

The Director of a farming company was felling a tree. The tree fell on him causing injuries that later led to his death.

### Health care and social assistance

#### North and Central Queensland

A child care centre bus completed its morning collection. The bus was then used by an employee to attend a meeting. After the meeting, the employee drove the bus back to the child care centre, collected a second person to do the bus run, where a child was discovered unresponsive in the bus.

### Accommodation and food services

#### Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker was fatally crushed under his mobile food van which was parked on the roadway while he was undertaking repairs.

### Manufacturing

#### Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

While stopped at a set of lights waiting for the green light to turn right, a 'truck and dog combination' vehicle struck and killed a cyclist. It appears the cyclist had ridden between the traffic and stopped directly in front of the front bumper of the truck. When the truck moved forward after the lights turned green, it made contact with and ran over the cyclist.

A worker become entrapped in a conveyor sustaining fatal injuries.

### Administrative and support services

#### Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A council street sweeper finished a sweeper run and was in the process of turning around when it was involved in a motor vehicle accident with a motorcycle. The motorcycle rider was fatally injured.

#### North and Central Queensland

A collision occurred between a tractor and a prime mover towing two trailers. The tractor was travelling in a northerly direction on the opposite side of the road when it suddenly and without warning upon nearing a culvert, lifted its slasher and turned left onto the road in front of the prime mover. The tractor driver was fatally injured.

### Transport, postal and warehousing

#### Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male was undertaking a truck inspection at his private residence as he worked from home. The truck fell onto the deceased as he was conducting his inspection causing fatal 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
- 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 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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