

Notified fatalities report

July to December 2018

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 25 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period July to December 2018.
- Of these 25 fatalities, 15 were male workers, two (2) were female workers, seven (7) were male bystanders, and one (1) was a female bystander.
- Beef cattle and sheep farming had the highest number of fatalities (six).
- Falls from a height (4), vehicle rollover (4) and drowning/immersion (4) were the most common mechanism groups with a total of 12 fatalities reported.
- North and Central Queensland region had the highest number of fatalities with 14.



Summary tables

The charts and graphs in this summary provide fatality data for the period July to December 2018.

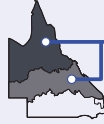


Fatalities by industry

Industry					
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	12		Accommodation and food services	1
	Arts and recreation services	4		Construction	1
	Transport, postal and warehousing	3		Education and training	1
	Manufacturing	2		Wholesale trade	1
Total 25 fatalities					

Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	22
	Female	3
Total		25

Fatalities by region

Region		
	North and Central Queensland	14
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	7
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	4
Total		25

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism		
Drowning/Immersion	4	
Falls from a height	4	
Rollover	4	
Contact with electricity	3	
Being hit by falling objects	2	
Being hit by moving objects	2	
Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment	2	
Being hit by an animal	1	
Contact with hot objects	1	
Hitting stationary objects	1	
Other and multiple mechanisms of injury	1	
Total	25	

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation		
Farmers	9	
Bystanders	8	
Labourers	3	
Technicians and trades workers	2	
Bulldozer operator	1	
Earthmoving plant operator (general)	1	
Forklift driver	1	
Recreation officer	1	
Total	25	

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.)

Accommodation and food services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A child was fatally injured when a tree-swing at an Airbnb accommodation collapsed and struck the child on the back of the head.

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker was filling herbicide into a tractor when for unknown reasons, the tractor moved forwards and ran over him. The deceased was found five metres away from the tractor with tread marks on his body.

A male worker suffered fatal injuries in a quad bike accident while conducting a burn off activity. It is believed that the quad bike performed a yaw (moved side to side suddenly), which caused it to flip, pinning him underneath.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

North and Central Queensland

One (1) female bystander and one (1) female worker were electrocuted after contacting an electric fence which was energised by a faulty extension lead which was lying on part of the truck connected to the fence tape.

After touching a 22kv conductor with an aluminium irrigation pipe one (1) child suffered fatal injuries and another (1) child was transported to hospital with burns.

A male worker rode a quad bike at night into the back of a stationary trailer suffering fatal injuries. There were no signs of braking prior to impact.

A male worker was found deceased when the grader he was driving fell and rolled 100m, after the side of the road he was driving on had given way leading down a steep embankment.

A male worker was conducting a legal burning operation and became trapped by the flames. He suffered burns to 90 per cent of his body before being pulled from the fire by his partner and son. He was transported to hospital, where he later died.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker was attempting to repair a hay baler machine when he became pinned by the machine, suffering fatal crush injuries.

A male worker was moving a large grain auger when the auger over balanced and lifted. The worker was flung into the air and fell approximately 20 metres causing fatal injuries.

A male worker was found deceased with crush-related injuries near a grader on a cattle station.

A male bystander (father) was assisting his son (worker) at the workplace, which required close interaction with a bull. The son was working away from his father and at some point witnessed the bull out of its yard. Upon investigation the father was found on the ground as the bull had trampled on the deceased's head.

Arts and recreation services

North and Central Queensland

Lifeguards were alerted by a member of the public that a male child was non-responsive at the bottom of the pool in the middle deep area. Lifeguards located the unconscious child and removed him from the water and commenced CPR. Paramedics attended and transported the child to the Cairns Hospital where the child was declared deceased.

A female worker was reportedly attempting to retrieve a bogged ute with a 'side by side' vehicle (UTV). The vehicle rolled over in the process, ejecting the worker and causing fatal crush injuries.

A father and his young son were swimming at a patrolled lagoon pool together when the father encountered trouble swimming in deeper water. Both the father and son were unable to extricate themselves and drowned.

Construction

North and Central Queensland

While unloading 18 tonnes of pipes from a truck, the bolster/stanchion holding them in place failed and the pipes rolled off, fatally crushing a male worker.

Education and training

North and Central Queensland

While performing maintenance work on an air conditioning system within a library building, a male worker fell from a height of approximately 12 metres causing fatal injuries.

Manufacturing

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker was attempting to move a forklift load over 3.6 metres (ground to mast) from outside to inside a shed. The load caught the supporting floor beam of the upper level, resulting in the forklift tipping over, causing fatal injuries to the forklift driver.

A male bystander was struck and fatally crushed by a truck at an industrial complex (workplace).

Transport, postal and warehousing

North and Central Queensland

A male snorkeler (bystander) was discovered underwater by another snorkeler from the same group. An alarm was raised, and CPR commenced until the doctor from the rescue helicopter arrived. The snorkeler died.

A male bystander taking part on an off-road motorcycle tour was witnessed overtaking several other riders at high speed when he failed to negotiate a corner and slammed into a tree causing immediate death.

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male bystander who was helping a friend (the owner) on a marine vessel, fell approximately 2.8 metres hitting concrete, suffering fatal head injuries.

Wholesale trade

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male volunteer worker fell approximately 3.25 metres from the roof of a building while removing an awning. He landed on his head. He was taken to hospital and later died.

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 or call 1300 362 128.

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State of Queensland 2021

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