

Notified fatalities report

January to June 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 11 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period January to June 2018.
- All 10 fatalities were male workers with one fatality being that of a male bystander.
- The Transport, postal and warehousing industry had the highest number of fatalities (four).
- Being hit by moving objects four (4), vehicle accident two (2), and single contact with chemical or substance two (2) were the most common mechanism groups with nine fatalities reported in total.
- The North and Central Queensland region had the highest number of fatalities seven (7).



Summary tables

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

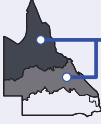
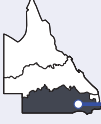

Fatalities by industry

Industry					
	Administrative and support services	1		Manufacturing	1
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2		Rental, hiring and real estate services	1
	Arts and recreation services	1		Transport, postal and warehousing	4
	Construction	1			
Total 11 fatalities					

Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	11
	Female	0
Total		11

Fatalities by region

Region		
	North and Central Queensland	7
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	1
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	3
Total		11

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism		
Being hit by falling objects		1
Being hit by moving objects		4
Explosion		1
Falls from a height		1
Single contact with chemical or substance		2
Vehicle accident		2
Total		11

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation		
Bystanders		1
Fitter-welder		1
Gas or petroleum operator		1
Grain, oilseed or pasture farm worker (Australia) \ field crop farm worker (New Zealand)		1
Roof tiler		1
Sales representatives and agents		2
Telecommunications technician		1
Tree faller		1
Truck drivers		2
Total		11

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).

Administrative and support services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker was on the ground felling a tree. The limb of another dead tree fell on him causing fatal injuries.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing

North and Central Queensland

A male worker reversed a truck carrying corn into the 'top shed' and left it in reverse gear. Later the male worker removed the flexible connection between the truck and the air driers and asked a second worker to reposition the truck to another blower. The second worker turned on the ignition, thinking the truck was in neutral. The truck started to move backward so the second worker moved the truck forward, stopped, got out and realised that the deceased male worker must have been between the back of the truck and the air ducting which had moved back some distance.

A worker was spot-welding two engine oil drums to a box steel frame using an electric welder, to build a tractor counterweight. The drums were thought to be empty. The worker tacked the bottom of the drums to the frame with four or five welds and put the first tack on the steel on top of the drum. He made contact between the welder and the drum and there was an explosion, resulting in the worker's death.

Arts and recreation services

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A worker reversing a prime mover truck with an attached cattle trailer was observed to be steering the vehicle while standing on the steps outside the cabin of the truck. It appears the truck mounted a ramp attached to a horse float parked nearby. The worker was seen to fall from the steps while the truck continued to reverse, causing the deceased to be dragged under the truck until it came to a halt.

Construction

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A contractor's vehicle was parked on the incorrect side of the road at a building site. A truck left a worksite after a delivery and the passenger side stabiliser arm moved out from the truck and struck the parked vehicle, which then ran over the contractor resulting in his death.

Manufacturing

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A worker, who was working alone in a dry ice plant where a large storage vessel was being drained of liquid CO₂ was found deceased. The worker had removed a 50mm high pressure hose from its fixed position under the cylinder and placed it on the ground where it continued to vent. CCTV recorded the worker bending down as if to adjust a valve and then showed the worker slumped over pipes leading from the cylinder. The recording showed the high-pressure hose had moved out onto the delivery area, where it moved around under the pressure of the gas venting from it.

Rental, hiring and real estate services

North and Central Queensland

A worker died as the result of injuries sustained when he fell five metres through a skylight in the main roof onto concrete.

Transport, postal and warehousing

North and Central Queensland

A fuel tanker and sedan were involved in a traffic crash. The fuel tanker driver took evasive action to try and avoid a collision with a sedan approaching the tanker. The sedan impacted the truck's second trailer before an explosion and impact caused both the truck and sedan to veer off the road. The truck driver died in the ensuing roll over and fire.

A worker was transporting cattle in a prime mover when the right front steer tyre blew and he was unable to maintain control. An oncoming vehicle did not take evasive action and the vehicles collided head on, resulting in the death of the driver of the oncoming vehicle.

Two workers were found deceased inside the rear tank of a dual tank semi-trailer tanker. It appears that they were quickly overcome by a gas or otherwise asphyxiated.

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 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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