

Notified fatalities report

July to December 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 17 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period July to December 2019.
- Of these 17 fatalities, 10 were male workers, five (5) were male bystanders, and two (2) were female bystanders.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the highest number of fatalities with five (5).
- Falls from a height and being hit by falling objects (3 each) were the most common mechanism groups.
- Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay; and Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast regions had the highest number of fatalities with seven (7).

Summary tables

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



Fatalities by industry

Industry					
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	5		Manufacturing	2
	Arts and recreation services	3		Construction	1
	Transport, postal and warehousing	3		Wholesale trade	1
	Health care and social assistance	2			




Total 17 fatalities

Fatalities by gender

Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	15
	Female	2
Total		17

Fatalities by region

Region		
	North and Central Queensland	3
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	7
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	7
Total		17

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism		
Being hit by falling objects		3
Falls from a height		3
Drowning/immersion		2
Being hit by moving objects		1
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects		1
Contact with electricity		1
Explosion		1
Falls on the same level		1
Hitting stationary objects		1
Rollover		1
Unspecified mechanisms of injury		1
Vehicle accident		1
Total		17

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation		
Bystanders		7
Farmers		3
Technicians and trade workers		3
Truck driver		2
Meat process worker		1
Railway track worker		1
Total		17

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

North and Central Queensland

A male worker rode a horse through a deep river when his horse became submerged. The worker fell from the horse and drowned.

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male motorcyclist ignored several signs and entered a harvesting site. He was thrown from his motorcycle and found deceased on scene.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker suffered fatal crush injuries as a result of rolling a tractor in an excavation site.

A male worker suffered fatal injuries when a tree he was preparing to fell suddenly started falling and landed on the cabin of his excavator. A branch pieced the cabin and the deceased's chest.

A male farmer suffered fatal injuries when he was struck by two hay bales, weighing around 600 kilograms each.

Arts and recreational services

North and Central Queensland

A male bystander fell from a zip line platform onto the ground, suffering fatal injuries.

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A female bystander was attempting to find her seat at the theatre when she missed a step and fell. She suffered severe injuries and later died.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male child died as a result of falling into and becoming submerged in a public pool.

Construction

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker fell from the top step of an extended ladder to the ground causing fatal injuries.

Health care and social assistance

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

An female resident died at an aged care facility as a result of a fall.

An elderly male died after walking behind a reversing motor vehicle.

Manufacturing

North and Central Queensland

A crane moving railway lines came into contact with a powerline and fatally electrocuted a male worker who had his hand on the load.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker fell inside an animal carcass dehairing machine and suffered fatal crush injuries.

Transport, postal and warehousing

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male snorkeler on a 'swim with whales' experience signalled the boat for pickup, but was found unresponsive and not breathing.

While inflating a truck tyre, a male worker was fatally injured when the tyre exploded.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male truck driver died as a result of a vehicle accident.

Wholesale trade

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A male worker suffered fatal crush injuries when a portable generator over-balanced and fell from a forklift onto the worker.

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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