



Notified fatalities report

July to December 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 7 fatalities to Safe Work Australia for the period July to December 2020.
- Of these seven (7) fatalities, six (6) were male workers and one (1) was a male bystander.
- The Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the highest number of fatalities with four (4).
- Vehicle accidents (3) was the most common mechanism group.
- Southwest and Logan and Gold Coast region had the highest number of fatalities with four (4) followed by North and Central Queensland region with three (3).

Summary tables



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

Fatalities by industry

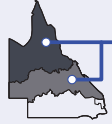


Industry					
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4		Manufacturing	1
	Health care and social assistance	1		Professional, scientific and technical services	1
Total 10 fatalities					



Fatalities by gender

Gender		
	Male	7
	Female	0
Total		7

Fatalities by region

Region		
	North and Central Queensland	2
	Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast	4
	Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay	1
Total		7

Fatalities by incident mechanism

Incident mechanism		
Vehicle accident		3
Contact with electricity		1
Being hit by falling objects		1
Being trapped between stationary and moving objects		1
Drowning/immersion		1
Total		7

Fatalities by occupation

Occupation		
Farmers and farm managers		3
Bystanders		1
Electrician (general)		1
Animal attendants and trainers		1
Beef cattle farmer		1
Total		7

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 farmer was conducting a vegetation management controlled burn on his family beef cattle property in the morning. His family raised the alarm when he did not return home. He was found deceased, pinned under a fallen tree and severely burnt with his quad bike nearby.

A male was riding his quad bike on a farm road and ran over some hay that had come from a dropped bale. He was fatally injured when the hay got caught in the driving mechanism and caused the bike to roll.

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A male worker returning from spraying was riding a quad bike on a road with no helmet. It appears he swerved to avoid hitting an animal and died.

A horse trainer was found deceased, lying face down in long grass after a horse that was towing him in a trotting gig shied away from an unknown object, causing the gig to flip and land upside down.

Health care and social assistance

Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay

A resident died on a rural property which is operated as a service for people with disabilities. A support worker took two residents for a drive on the property. While in a paddock the support worker drove into a dam which was much deeper than expected, resulting in the vehicle becoming fully submerged. One of the residents became trapped in the vehicle while the other resident and support worker were able to extricate themselves.

Manufacturing

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

Workers were trying to jump start a tractor with a ute. A male worker was attempting to jump start the tractor utilising the power of the ute's battery. When he started the ute, it moved forward. As it was in gear his head and upper body were jammed between the door jam and door resulting in fatal injuries.

Professional, scientific and technical services

Southwest, Logan and Gold Coast

A worker replacing an air conditioning system for his employer was found deceased at the premises of a veterinary clinic. When the staff left for the day, they noticed the worker's vehicle was still parked in front of the building and his ladder was in situ against the wall. Staff climbed the ladder and located the deceased lying face down on the roof near the air conditioning unit.

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 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.

Find us on



State of Queensland 2021

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