



Notified fatalities

January – June 2011

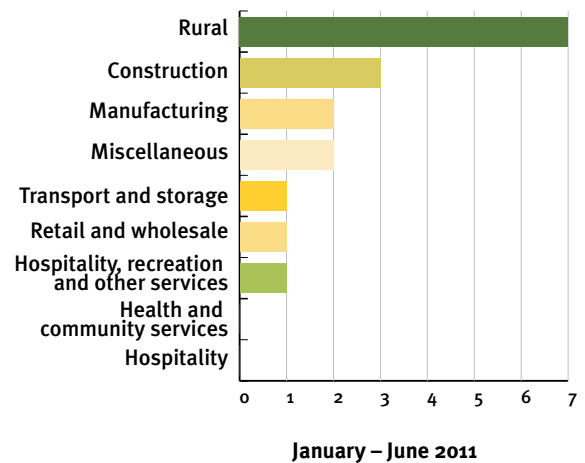
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) reports monthly to Safe Work Australia about notified fatalities that 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.

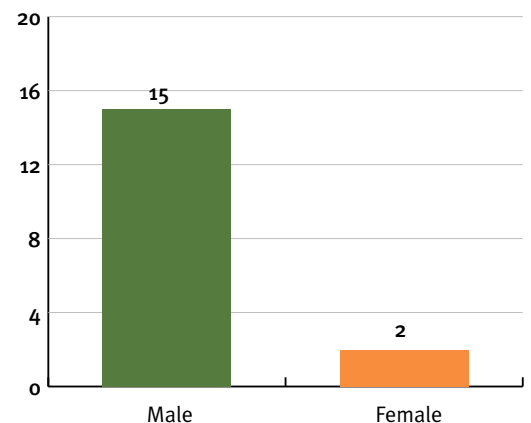
Main issues

- WHSQ notified 17 fatalities to Safe Work Australia, involving 15 workers and 2 bystanders.
- The rural sector had the highest number of fatalities (7), followed by construction with three (3) fatalities, and manufacturing and miscellaneous industries with two (2) fatalities each.
- Males comprised the majority of fatalities (15 of 17).
- Central Queensland and Wide Bay, and North Queensland regions had the highest number of fatalities (5), while Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast Region had the lowest (3).
- The most common nature of injury was ‘internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis’ (4), however ‘environmental conditions’¹, ‘electrical contact’² and ‘multiple injuries’ were equal second (3 each).
- ‘Being hit by objects’³ (8) was the most common mechanism group, which represented more than 47 per cent of all fatalities (8 of 17) in the six month period. The next most common mechanism was ‘contact with electricity’ with four (4) fatalities.
- Farm workers and trade workers were the most common occupation groups (4 each), making up 47 per cent of the total fatalities (8 of 17). Bystanders made up more than 11 per cent of the total fatalities (2 of 17).

Fatalities by industry



Fatalities by gender



Summary tables

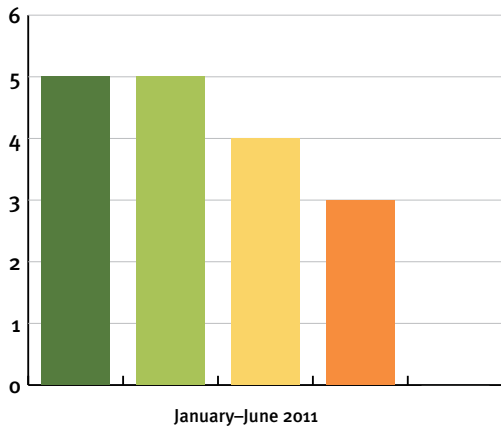
The charts and graphs in this summary report provide fatality data for the period January to June 2011.

¹ Effects of weather, exposure, air pressure and other external causes, not elsewhere classified.

² Electrocutation, shock from electric current.

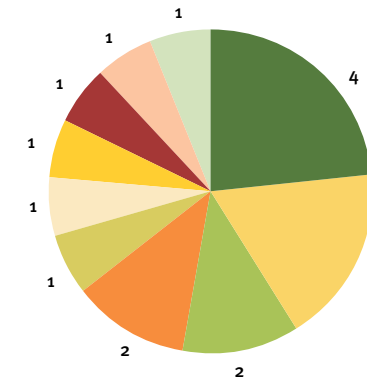
³ This includes the following; Being hit by an animal, Being hit by falling objects, Being hit by moving objects, Being trapped between stationary and moving objects, Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment.

Fatalities by region



- Central Queensland and Wide Bay
- North Queensland
- South West Queensland
- Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast
- Brisbane South and Gold Coast

Fatalities by incident mechanism

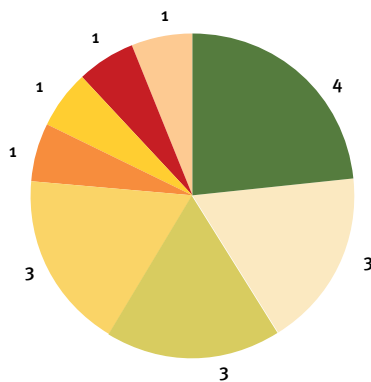


July-December 2010

- Contact with electricity
- Being trapped by moving machinery or equipment
- Being hit by moving objects
- Drowning/immersion
- Being hit by falling objects
- Falls from a height
- Rollover
- Being hit by an animal
- Being trapped between stationary and moving objects
- Vehicle incident

Note: Prior to CISR being introduced in June 2010, TOOCS (injury classification) coding was not used for notifications within CIS. As a result, data is not available for previous years.

Fatalities by incident nature

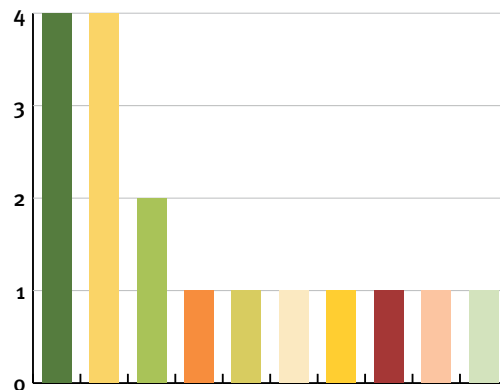


January-June 2011

- Internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis
- Multiple injuries
- Effects of weather, exposure, air pressure and other external causes, not elsewhere classified
- Electrocutation, shock from electric current
- Brain injury
- Fractured skull and facial bones
- Fractures, unspecified
- Electrical burn

Note: Prior to CISR being introduced in June 2010, TOOCS (injury classification) coding was not used for notifications within CIS. As a result, data is not available for previous years.

Fatalities by occupation



January-June 2011

- Farm worker
- Trade worker
- Bystander
- Building and plumbing labourers
- Bus driver
- Fishing hand
- Forestry and logging workers
- Miscellaneous labourers
- Mobile plant operators
- Other construction and mining labourers

Note: Prior to CISR being introduced in June 2010, ANZSCO (occupation) coding was not used for notifications within CIS. As a result, data is not available for previous years.

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.

Rural industry

South West

A farmer was riding a three wheeler bike when the two metre pipe he was towing appeared to have dug into the bank of a creek, causing the bike to flip. The farmer and bike were found at the bottom of the creek several days later.

South West

A farmer was mustering cattle on a quad bike when he hit a calf with the bike, causing him to be thrown from the vehicle and land heavily on the ground. He died at the scene.

South West

A worker was crushed by a cotton picker after he got down from the seat to investigate a suspected obstruction in the machine. It appeared that the park brake was not on and the picker was still operating.

Central Queensland and Wide Bay

A worker was crushed against a cattle yard ramp by a truck that was reversing into position to begin loading cattle.

Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast

A worker was pulling down a palm tree with a tractor. It appears that the tractor was operating in the fall zone. The tree fell on the worker and tractor, resulting in fatal injuries to the worker.

Central Queensland and Wide Bay

A worker was believed to be setting nets as a professional fisherman at the time that he went missing. His body was discovered later by the police and his death is believed to have been caused by drowning.

North Queensland

A rural property owner was assisting a crane operator to move a large shipping container on the property. The man was using one hand to guide the container when it made contact with overhead high voltage power lines, causing him to be electrocuted.

Construction industry

Central Queensland and Wide Bay

A worker was making adjustments to a house that was on temporary stumps when it came down and crushed him. The worker died from his injuries on the way to the hospital.

Central Queensland and Wide Bay

A worker was on a scissor lift repainting a sign located about one and a half metres from overhead power lines. It is believed that electricity arced to the roller when he extended the platform towards the lines, causing electrocution.

Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast

A worker is presumed to have fallen from a height while working on a roof to replace the guttering of a domestic dwelling.

Manufacturing

South West

A worker was slewing a mobile crane with a concrete retaining wall block when the crane tipped over crushing him in the cab.

North Queensland

A worker was electrocuted when performing welding work on a frame above a hopper.

Miscellaneous

North Queensland

A traffic controller was laying witches hats on the centre of the road when he was struck and killed by a motorist.

Central Queensland and Wide Bay

A plant operator at a screening plant, located at a quarry near a sea wall construction site, was trapped between a conveyor belt and a roller, and died from crush injuries.

Transport and storage

Brisbane North and Sunshine Coast

A female bus driver was attempting to fix a door and became trapped in the door. She was later found unconscious and not breathing by a colleague.

Retail and wholesale

North Queensland

An electrician was electrocuted while performing work on lighting in an industrial building when it is believed he made contact with live cabling. The cable's insulation had been damaged by rats.

Hospitality, recreation and other services

North Queensland

A tourist visiting a commercial nature park was swept away by a strong current into a hole in the rocks where he was swimming with others in his party. His body was recovered two days later.

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).

For the purposes of this report, the ANZSIC industry groups are categorised under Workplace Health and Safety Queensland's industry groups as follows:

WHSQ industry group	ANZSIC industry group
Rural	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
Miscellaneous	Mining
	Public administration and safety
Construction	Construction
Manufacturing	Manufacturing
Transport and storage	Transport, postal and warehousing
Retail and wholesale	Wholesale trade
Hospitality, recreation and other services	Arts and recreation services

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.

The fatalities detailed in this report include those that WHSQ reported to Safe Work Australia, for deaths that occurred between January and June 2011. Further investigation of any of these incidents could reveal additional information that may deem an incident to be non-work related. WHSQ reports any changes to notified fatalities to Safe Work Australia.

For more information on workplace health and safety, visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call Advisory Services on 1300 369 915.