

Notifiable Incidents Definitions

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and the *Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011* set out what sort of incidents are notifiable to WHSQ. An incident is notifiable *if it arises out of the conduct of a business or undertaking and results in the death, serious injury or serious illness of a person or involves a dangerous incident.*

Serious injury or illness of a person is:

An injury or illness requiring the person to have

- immediate treatment as an inpatient in a hospital
- Immediate treatment for:
 - The amputation of any part of his/her body
 - A serious head injury
 - A serious eye injury
 - A serious burn
 - The separation of his or her skin from an underlying tissue (such as degloving or scalping)
 - A spinal injury
 - The loss of a bodily function
 - Serious lacerations
- Medical treatment (treatment by a doctor) within 48 hours of exposure to a substance

Any infection to which the carrying out of work is a significant contributing factor, including any infection that is reliably attributable to carrying out work

- with micro-organisms
- that involves providing treatment or care to a person
- that involves contact with human blood or body substances
- that involves handling or contact with animals, animal hides, skins, wool or hair, animal carcasses or animal waste products

The following occupational zoonoses contracted in the course of work involving the handling or contact with animals, animal hides, skins, wool or hair, animal carcasses or animal waste products

- Q fever
- Anthrax
- Leptospirosis
- Brucellosis
- Hendra virus
- Avian influenza
- Psittacosis

What is a dangerous incident?

A dangerous incident is an incident in relation to a workplace that exposes a worker or any other person to a serious risk to a person's health or safety emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to:

- an uncontrolled escape, spillage or leakage of a substance
- an uncontrolled implosion, explosion or fire
- an uncontrolled escape of gas or steam
- an uncontrolled escape of a pressurised substance
- electric shock
- the fall or release from a height of any plant, substance or thing
- the collapse, overturning, failure or malfunction of, or damage to, any plant that is required to be authorised for use in accordance with the regulations
- the collapse or partial collapse of a structure
- the collapse or failure of an excavation or of any shoring supporting an excavation
- the inrush of water, mud or gas in workings, in an underground excavation or tunnel
- the interruption of the main system of ventilation in an underground excavation or tunnel
- any other event prescribed under a regulation; but does not include an incident of a prescribed kind.

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Electrical incidents and notifications

A person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must, under the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 (the ES Regulation), notify the regulator once they become aware of a serious electrical incident (SEI) or dangerous electrical event (DEE) arising out of the conduct of their business or undertaking.

Serious electrical incident

includes where a person:

- is killed by electricity
- receives a shock or injury from electricity, and is treated for the shock or injury by or under the supervision of a doctor
- receives a shock or injury from electricity at high voltage, whether or not the person is treated for the shock or injury by or under the supervision of a doctor.

What is “treatment”?

Examples of treatment may include:

- the application of creams or dressings to burns;
- cleaning and dressing of wounds, cuts or abrasions;
- setting of broken bones or strapping of strains or sprains;
- administering/prescribing of medications.

Once treatment is administered, regardless of the level of treatment, it is reportable

However, treatment does not include periods of precautionary observation or non-invasive monitoring such as an electrocardiogram (ECG).

High Voltage: Any electric shock or injury received from a high voltage source of electricity must be reported regardless of whether treatment for the shock or injury was received.

Dangerous electrical event

- when a person, for any reason, is electrically unsafe around high voltage electrical equipment, even if the person doesn't receive an electric shock or injury
- significant property damage caused by electricity or something originating from electricity e.g. electrical fire
- unlicensed electrical work
- unsafe electrical work
- unsafe electrical equipment or electrical equipment that does not have electrical equipment safety system (EESS) approval markings.

A prescribed reason to disturb an incident site is action:

- to assist an injured person
- to remove a deceased person
- essential to make the site safe or to minimise the risk of a further notifiable incident
- associated with a police investigation for which an inspector or WHSQ has given permission – a direction that a scene may be disturbed may be given in person or by a telephone call.

Contact WorkSafe Qld on 1300 362 128 if the incident occurs outside of business hours and you wish to disturb the incident site. A WHSQ on call inspector will return your call.

The person conducting a business of undertaking must keep a record of each notifiable incident for at least five (5) years from the date notified to WHSQ.

Note Qld Synod Office WHS will assist with the notification to WorkSafe QLD