

Safe Work Australia

Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities (TIF) Database

Data Dictionary

DECEMBER 2022

Disclaimer

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Safe Work Australia works with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to improve work health and safety and workers' compensation arrangements. Safe Work Australia is a national policy body, not a regulator of work health and safety. The Commonwealth, states and territories have responsibility for regulating and enforcing work health and safety laws in their jurisdiction.

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Purpose

The TIF is a comprehensive data set that includes detailed information on all work-related traumatic injury fatalities in Australia.

To be included the person must have:

- Been traumatically, fatally injured, and
- Whose injuries resulted from work activity or exposures, and
- Whose injuries occurred in an incident that took place in Australian territories or territorial sea.

There are two types of work-related deaths that are captured:

- Workers who died, irrespective of how they were engaged (includes unpaid volunteers, family workers, persons undertaking work experience and defence force personnel killed), and
- Persons who died as a result of someone else's work activity (bystander fatalities).

Report data

Collated data

The data is compiled based on fatality data sourced from media reports (including those from relevant authority websites such as police and the Australian Transport Bureau), the National Coronial Information system (NCIS), notifications from jurisdictional authorities and compensated worker fatalities from the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS). By combining available sources of work-related fatality data, the TIF database provides Australia's best estimate of work-related fatalities.

Table 1 shows the data that is collated

| Data category | Data captured |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Incident details - date | Cal. Year (calendar year) Month Fin. Year (financial year) |
| Incident details - circumstance | State/Territory of death Jurisdiction Public road incident Mechanism Agency Breakdown agency Farm involved |
| Deceased's details - personal | Sex Age group |
| Deceased's details - work | TIF type |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| | Work status Industry of employer Industry of workplace Occupation |
| Vehicle details | Vehicle involved Truck involved Single/multi vehicle incident Deceased's vehicle type – detailed Deceased's vehicle type – high level Counterpart vehicle type – detailed Counterpart vehicle type – high level Relationship to vehicle Deceased's activities |

While Safe Work Australia works closely with jurisdictional WHS regulators and workers' compensation authorities to collect this information, there are differences between the information captured and reported in the TIF and those the jurisdictions report. This is mostly a result of the differences in coverage and scope of the datasets. Readers may find the [Explanatory notes: Traumatic injury fatalities database](#) useful in understanding the scope of the TIF dataset.

Further information and feedback

More information about the database inclusions and exclusions, data sources and calculation of fatality rates is available in the [Explanatory notes: Traumatic injury fatalities database](#).

If you have questions or require further information please email StatsOnline@swa.gov.au.

The data dictionary

The Data Dictionary provides definitions and information about the data collected in the TIF report.

Data definitions and guidelines

Cal. Year

Description: The calendar year of the worker/bystander's death.

Format: "YYYY"

Month

Description: The month of the worker/bystander's death.

Format: "'MM"

Fin. Year

Description: The financial year of the worker/bystander's death.

Format: "YYYY-YY"

TIF type

Description: Identifies whether the deceased was engaged in work activities at the time of death or a member of the public.

Field (set):

- Worker: person that was working when they died. This includes unpaid volunteers and family workers, persons undertaking work experience and defence force personnel killed within Australian territories or territorial sea or travelling for work.
- Bystander: a member of the public that died from injuries resulting from another person's work activity and who was not engaged in a work activity of their own at the time of the injury.

Work status

Description: This field identifies the relationship the deceased had with their employer if they were working at the time of death (if available).

Field (set):

- Employee
- Self-employed

- Contractor
- Volunteer
- Contributing family worker
- Bystander – applied to all bystander fatalities.
- Blank – if the employment relationship of the deceased is unknown/not available

State/Territory of death

Description: The State/Territory in which the death occurred.

Field (set):

- ACT
- NSW
- NT
- Qld
- SA
- Tas
- Vic
- WA

Jurisdiction

Description: The state/territory that had jurisdictional responsibility for the fatality.

- ACT
- NSW
- NT
- Qld
- SA
- Tas
- Vic
- WA
- Commonwealth – if the incident falls within the *Commonwealth Work Health and Safety Act 2011* administered by Comcare.
- Air – if the incident involved an aircraft.

Note: Only available from records with a date of death of 2018 onwards.

Public road incident

Description: Whether the deceased was involved in a vehicle related accident that occurred on a public road.

Field (set):

- On a public road – An incident on a public road between any vehicle or self-propelled plant and anything else including a pedestrian.
 - A public road is a road that is available for use by members of the public. This includes toll roads, bus lanes and busways.
- Not on a public road - An incident involving a vehicle that occurred at a worksite, on a private road or a public area that is not a public road (e.g. public carparks). These incidents include plane crashes and incidents involving watercraft as well as vehicle crashes on farming properties.

Sex

Description: the sex identified for the deceased

Fields (set):

- Male
- Female
- Other (when identified as neither male or female)
- Blank (if unknown)

Note: Safe Work Australia's fatality data is based on multiple data sources, some of which are reported by gender and some which are reported by sex. While the majority of the population identifies both their sex and gender as either male or female, a small proportion of the population identify their sex and/or gender as other than male or female; however there are no work-related fatalities in the Traumatic Injury Fatalities dataset which have been identified as belonging to this third category.

Age

Description: The age (in years) of the deceased at the date of their death.

Format: Numerical

Notes: blank if unknown.

Age group

Description: Identifies the age of the deceased within a 10-year band.

Fields (set):

- Under 24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 & over

Notes: Safe Work Australia can provide data on other age ranges if required.

Mechanism (2 digit and code)

Description: The action, exposure or event that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the most serious injury, coded to the TOOCS classification.

Notes: Please refer to the [Type of occurrence classification system \(TOOCS, 2008 3rd edition\)](#) classification system for more information about the set fields.

Agency (1/2/3/4 digit and code)

Description: The object, substance or circumstance directly involved in inflicting the injury, coded to the TOOCS classification.

Notes: Please refer to the [Type of occurrence classification system \(TOOCS, 2008 3rd edition\)](#) classification system for more information about the set fields.

Breakdown Agency (1/2/3/4 digit and code)

Description: The object, substance or circumstance that was principally involved in, or more closely associated with, the point at which things started to go wrong and which ultimately led to the injury causing the death.

Notes: Please refer to the [Type of occurrence classification system \(TOOCS, 2008 3rd edition\)](#) classification system for more information about the set fields.

Vehicle involved

Description: identifies whether a vehicle was involved in the incident.

Fields (set):

- Vehicle involved
- N – a vehicle was not involved in the incident

Notes: Vehicles should include road, rail, air and water transport agencies (as defined in the TOOCS). In this case it also extends to mobile plant which could be used transport people from one location to another (e.g. self-propelled plant and equipment).

Truck involved

Description: if any vehicles involved in the incident were trucks.

Fields (set):

- Truck involved
- N – a truck was not involved in the incident

Note: Should only apply if a vehicle was identified as being involved in the incident.

Farm involved

Description: If the incident (causing the traumatic injury) occurred on a farm.

Fields (set):

- 'Farm' – the incident involved a farm
- 'N' – the incident did not involve a farm

Single/multi vehicle incident

Description: Identifies if the incident involved more than one vehicle

Fields (set):

- Single vehicle incident
- Multi vehicle incident
- N/A – if not applicable (e.g. no vehicle was involved)

Deceased's vehicle type - detailed

Description: Identifies the deceased's vehicle at the time of the incident.

Format: Free text / Fields (set)

- Mower
- Agriculture vehicle (other and not specified)
- Header/harvester
- Tractor
- Aircraft (other or not specified)
- glider
- gyrocopter
- helicopter
- plane
- Ultralight
- Bystander on foot
- Military vehicle (heavy vehicle)
- Bus
- Truck
- Cement Mixer
- Mobile garbage compactors
- Grader
- Mobile Crane
- Excavator
- Forklift
- Earthmoving equipment
- Forestry vehicle
- Road roller/compactor
- Car
- Van
- Military vehicle (light vehicle)
- Ute
- Motorbike
- Pushbike
- Gokart
- Other and not specified vehicle
- Scooter
- SSV
- Train
- UTV
- Quad bike
- ATV
- Watercraft

- Bulldozer
- bystander/worker on foot
- Other

Notes: between 2003 to 2019 this information was collected in free text. From 2020 we started using a standard list.

Deceased's vehicle type – high level

Description: Identifies the deceased's vehicle at the time of the incident.

Fields (set):

- Agriculture vehicle
- Aircraft
- Deceased on foot
- Heavy vehicle
- Heavy vehicle/mobile plant
- Lifting and moving vehicle
- Light vehicle
- Motorbike/scooter
- Other
- Watercraft
- Other

Counterpart vehicle type - detailed

Description: If the incident involved more than one vehicle (e.g. multi-vehicle incident) or the deceased was on foot at the time of incident, this should describe the 'other vehicle' involved in the incident (e.g. the one the deceased was not in).

Format: Free text / Fields (set)

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| • Mower | • Forklift |
| • Agriculture vehicle (other and not specified) | • Earthmoving equipment |
| • Header/harvester | • Forestry vehicle |
| • Tractor | • Road roller/compactor |
| • Aircraft (other or not specified) | • Car |
| • glider | • Van |
| • gyrocopter | • Military vehicle (light vehicle) |
| • helicopter | • Ute |
| • plane | • Motorbike |
| • Ultralight | • Pushbike |
| • Bystander on foot | • Gokart |

- Military vehicle (heavy vehicle)
- Bus
- Truck
- Cement Mixer
- Mobile garbage compactors
- Grader
- Mobile Crane
 - Excavator
 - Bulldozer
- Other and not specified vehicle
- Scooter
- SSV
- Train
- UTV
- Quad bike
- ATV
- Watercraft
 - bystander/worker on foot
 - Other

Notes: between 2003 to 2019 this information was collected in free text. From 2020 we started using a standard list.

Counterpart vehicle type – high level

Description: if the incident involved more than one vehicle (e.g. multi-vehicle incident) or the deceased was on foot at the time of incident, this should describe the 'other vehicle' involved in the incident (e.g. the one the deceased was not in) from a set high-level list.

Fields (set):

- Agriculture vehicle
- Aircraft
- Deceased on foot
- Heavy vehicle
- Heavy vehicle/mobile plant
- Lifting and moving vehicle
- Light vehicle
- Motorbike/scooter
- Other
- Watercraft
- Other

Relationship to vehicle

Description: The relationship of the deceased to the victim's vehicle (or the counterpart vehicle where the deceased was on foot).

Fields (set):

- Driver/operator – if the deceased was operating/driving the vehicle.
- Driver on foot - if the deceased was intending to operate/drive but was out of the vehicle at the time (e.g. opening the gate, unloading the truck etc).
- Passenger – if the person was a passenger in the vehicle. This includes if they were working on the vehicle (as a train conductor, boat crew etc)

- Passenger on foot – if the deceased was intending to be a passenger but was out of the vehicle at the time. Also applies if the deceased was part of a boat crew (but not operating it).
- Mechanic/Tradesperson – if the deceased's sole relationship to the vehicle was to repair or maintain the vehicle.
- Deceased on foot – if the deceased was not a driver/operator or passenger of the vehicle but was hit by it (e.g. a worker who was in an unloading bay when hit by a truck)
- Other/not specified – if relationship to vehicle is unknown or does not fit into those categories
- N/A – if not applicable (e.g. no vehicle was involved)

Deceased's activity

Description: Where a vehicle was involved, identifies the activity the deceased was undertaking at the time of the incident if a vehicle was involved

Format: Free text

Industry of employer (ANZSIC06 1-4 digit and 4 digit code)

Description: identifies what industry employed the deceased as classified by the [ANZSIC](#).

Fields (set): Please refer to the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC, 2006 first edition\)](#) system for more information about the set fields.

Industry of workplace (ANZSIC 1-4 digit and 4 digit code)

Description: identifies the industry of the workplace/location where the incident occurred as classified by the [ANZSIC](#).

Fields (set): Please refer to the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC, 2006 first edition\)](#) system for more information about the set fields.

Occupation (ANZSCO 1-4 digit and 4 digit code)

Description: identifies the occupation of the deceased as classified by the [ANZSCO](#).

Fields (set): Please refer to the [Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation \(ANZSCO, 2006 first edition\)](#) system for more information about the set fields.

Gig worker flag

Description: identifies if the fatality involved a 'gig worker' (where a person is hired through an app or website to undertake a role for a third party).

Fields (set):

- Yes (deceased was identified as a gig worker)
- Blank (deceased was not identified as a gig worker or unknown)

Notes: The Agency started collecting this data from 2019.

There are limitations to this data. Information about whether a worker had been performing work obtained via a digital platform at the time of an injury fatality is often not available. A worker may operate their own business as an independent contractor obtaining work both through traditional arrangements as well as via one or more digital platforms. Given the sources from which work related injury fatality data are collated (e.g. policy reports, coronial data), this level of detail is often not readily available.

Multiple fatalities

Description: identifies if there are multiple records in the TIF that relate to the single incident.

Format: number (if more 2 or more TIF records are related)

Notes: The Agency started collecting this data from 2021. It does not count related fatalities that are out of scope of the TIF.