



# Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities (TIF) Database

Data Dictionary

JANUARY 2025

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## PURPOSE

The Traumatic Injury Fatalities (TIF) database is a comprehensive dataset that includes detailed information on all work-related traumatic injury fatalities in Australia.

The database includes information about people who have:

- Been traumatically, fatally injured,
- 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 in the database:

- 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 information sourced from media reports (including those from relevant authority websites such as police and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau), the National Coronial Information system (NCIS), notifications from jurisdictional authorities and compensated worker fatalities from the Safe Work Australia National Dataset 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.

Each of these sources are used to identify work-related traumatic injury fatalities and then to compile a comprehensive overview of the nature and circumstances of each fatality. This enables regulators and policy makers, as well as other stakeholders in the work health and safety (WHS) system, to make informed and targeted decisions to reduce the prevalence of work-related fatalities in Australian workplaces.

Table 1 shows the data that is collated.

Data category	Data captured
Incident details - date	<a href="#">Cal. Year</a> (calendar year) <a href="#">Month</a> <a href="#">Fin. Year</a> (financial year)
Incident details - circumstance	<a href="#">State/Territory of death</a> <a href="#">Jurisdiction</a> <a href="#">Public road incident</a> <a href="#">Mechanism</a> <a href="#">Agency</a> <a href="#">Breakdown agency</a> <a href="#">Farm involved</a>

Deceased's details - demographic	<a href="#">Sex</a> <a href="#">Age group</a>
Deceased's details - work	<a href="#">TIF type</a> <a href="#">Work status</a> <a href="#">Industry of employer</a> <a href="#">Industry of workplace</a> <a href="#">Occupation</a>
Vehicle details	<a href="#">Vehicle involved</a> <a href="#">Truck involved</a> <a href="#">Single/multi vehicle incident</a> <a href="#">Deceased's vehicle type – detailed</a> <a href="#">Deceased's vehicle type – high level</a> <a href="#">Counterpart vehicle type – detailed</a> <a href="#">Counterpart vehicle type – high level</a> <a href="#">Relationship to vehicle</a> <a href="#">Deceased's activities</a>

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

## Further information and feedback

More information about the information included and excluded from the database, 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](mailto:StatsOnline@swa.gov.au).

# THE DATA DICTIONARY

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

## Data definitions and guidelines

### Cal. Year

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

Format: "YYYY"

### Month

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

Format: ""MM"

### Fin. Year

Description: The financial year of the worker or 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 nature of the working relationship the deceased had with their employer if they were working at the time of death (if available).

Field (set):

- Employee

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- Self-employed
- Contractor
- Volunteer
- Labour hire
- Contributing family member
- Not applicable – applied to all bystander fatalities.
- Unknown – if the employment relationship of the deceased is unknown/not available

### **State/Territory of death**

Description: The state or territory location in which the death occurred.

Field (set):

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

### **Jurisdiction**

Description: The state or territory that had jurisdictional regulatory 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.

Format: Binary (TRUE/FALSE)

- TRUE = On a public road – An incident on a public road between any vehicle or self-propelled plant and anything else, including a pedestrian.
  - o A public road is a road that is available for use by members of the public. This includes toll roads, bus lanes and busways.
- FALSE = 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):

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

Note: blank if unknown.

### **Mechanism (2 digit title 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 \(TOOCS, 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> edition\)](#) classification system for more information about the set fields.

### **Agency (1/2/3/4 digit title 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 \(TOOCS, 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> edition\)](#) classification system for more information about the set fields.

### **Breakdown Agency (1/2/3/4 digit title 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 \(TOOCS, 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> edition\)](#) classification system for more information about the set fields.

### **Vehicle involved**

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

Format: Binary (TRUE/FALSE)

- TRUE = A vehicle was involved in the incident
- FALSE = 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 to 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.

Format: Binary (TRUE/FALSE)

- TRUE = A truck was involved in the incident
- FALSE = 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.

Format: Binary (TRUE/FALSE)

- TRUE = The incident occurred on a farm
- FALSE = The incident did not occur on 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 vehicles were involved)

## Deceased's vehicle type – high level and detailed

Description: Identifies the deceased's vehicle or mode of transport in relation to the fatality.

Format: Hierarchical set fields.

Vehicle type – High Level	Vehicle type – Detailed	Alternative titles/Definitions
Agriculture vehicle	Header	Harvester
Agriculture vehicle	Mower	
Agriculture vehicle	Tractor	
Agriculture vehicle	Agriculture vehicle (other and not specified)	Includes cane bin haulers, bull catchers, fertiliser spreaders, silage wagons
Aircraft	Plane	
Aircraft	Glider	
Aircraft	Helicopter	
Aircraft	Gyrocopter	
Aircraft	Ultralight	
Aircraft	Aircraft (other or not specified)	
Heavy vehicle	Truck	Includes light trucks

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Heavy vehicle	Tow truck	
Heavy vehicle	Fire truck	
Heavy vehicle	Cement Mixer	Agitator truck
Heavy vehicle	Mobile garbage compactor	Garbage truck
Heavy vehicle	Bus	Includes minibuses, double deckers
Heavy vehicle	Military vehicle (heavy)	
Heavy vehicle	Heavy vehicle (other or not specified)	
Lifting and moving vehicle	Bulldozer	Dozer
Lifting and moving vehicle	Excavator	
Lifting and moving vehicle	Skid steer	Bobcat
Lifting and moving vehicle	Earthmoving equipment (other or not specified)	
Lifting and moving vehicle	Forestry vehicle	Includes skidders
Lifting and moving vehicle	Forklift	
Lifting and moving vehicle	Road compactor	Road roller
Lifting and moving vehicle	Grader	
Lifting and moving vehicle	Loader	
Lifting and moving vehicle	Mobile crane	
Lifting and moving vehicle	Telehandler	Multi-purpose tool carrier; cherry picker
Lifting and moving vehicle	Lifting and moving vehicle (other and not specified)	
Light vehicle	Car	Includes 4WDs, SUVs, taxis, limousines
Light vehicle	Ute	
Light vehicle	Van	
Light vehicle	Police vehicle	
Light vehicle	Ambulance van	
Light vehicle	Military vehicle (light)	
Light vehicle	Light vehicle (other and not specified)	
Motorbike and scooter	Motorbike	Includes 3-wheel motorcycles
Motorbike and scooter	Scooter	Motor scooter; Vespa
Motorbike and scooter	Motorbike or scooter (other and not specified)	
Watercraft	Motorised watercraft	Includes ships, jetskis, yachts, barges, boats (with engines), submarines
Watercraft	Non-motorised watercraft	Includes, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, rafts
Watercraft	Watercraft (other and not specified)	
Other vehicle	Gokart	
Other vehicle	Pushbike	Includes tricycles
Other vehicle	Quad bike	All-terrain vehicle (ATV)
Other vehicle	Side-by-side vehicle	Side-by-side (SSV); Utility terrain vehicle (UTV)
Other vehicle	Train	
Other vehicle	Tram and other rail transport	Light rail; Monorail
Other vehicle	Other vehicle	Includes other vehicles such as horse drawn carriage, skateboard, electric (non road) scooters, buggys, segways, ride-on sweepers/polishing machines, trolley collectors
Unknown	Unspecified vehicle	
Not applicable	n/a	

## Counterpart vehicle type – high level and detailed

Description: Identifies the counterpart vehicle related to the fatality. This is applicable if there was more than one vehicle involved in the incident, or the deceased had no relationship to the vehicle in a single-vehicle incident.

Format: Hierarchical set fields.

See above section for table of high level and detailed vehicle types applicable for Deceased vehicle types and Counterpart vehicle types.

## Relationship to vehicle

Description: The relationship of the deceased to the deceased's vehicle type.

Fields (set):

Relationship to vehicle	Explanation
Driver operating vehicle	If the deceased was operating/driving the vehicle, including when stopped or parked but still in the vehicle. More than one person involved in the incident may be considered the driver/operator, such as a pilot and co-pilot.
Driver outside of vehicle	If the deceased was intending to operate/drive, or had been operating/driving prior, but was out of the vehicle at the time (e.g. Opening the gate, unloading the truck, replacing a flat tyre etc).
Driver (other and not specified)	If the deceased is listed as the driver of the vehicle, but it is unknown if they were driving or outside of the vehicle at the time.
Passenger onboard vehicle	If the person was a passenger in the vehicle, but not described as a working crew member in relation to the vehicle – can be a bystander or worker.
Passenger outside of vehicle	If the deceased was intending to be a passenger, or was a passenger prior, but was out of the vehicle at the time.
Passenger (other and not specified)	If the deceased is listed as a passenger of the vehicle, but it is unknown if they were inside or outside of the vehicle at the time.
Crew onboard vehicle	Applies if the deceased was part of a working crew member (not operating it) and onboard at the time. Applies to workers working in relation to the vehicle but are not a driver or passenger (e.g. a worker part of a truck unloading crew, air hostess, etc).
Crew outside of vehicle	Applies if the deceased was part of a watercraft or flight crew (not operating it) and was not onboard at the time. Applies to workers working in relation to the vehicle but are not a driver or passenger (e.g. a worker part of a truck unloading crew, air hostess, etc).
Crew (other and not specified)	If the deceased is listed as a crew member of the vehicle, but it is unknown if they were inside or outside of the vehicle at the time.
Unrelated worker	If the deceased was a worker but was not intending to be a driver, passenger, mechanic, or crew member of the vehicle/s.
Unrelated MOP	If the deceased was not a worker and was not an operator or passenger in a vehicle.
Unrelated (other and not specified)	If it is known that the deceased was not related to any vehicle but it is unknown if they are a worker or general member of the public.
Mechanic	If the deceased's relationship to the vehicle was to repair or maintain the vehicle – if impromptu repair/maintenance, code to 'Driver/Passenger/Crew outside of vehicle'.
Other	If the deceased's relationship to vehicle is known but does not fit into any categories.
Unknown	If the deceased's relationship is not specified or otherwise unknown.
n/a	If not applicable (e.g. No vehicle was involved or deceased did not have a relationship to any vehicle/s involved).

## Deceased's activity

Description: Identifies the activity the deceased was undertaking at the time of the incident if a vehicle was involved.

Fields (set):

Deceased's activity	Notes
Construction	Excludes road work, code to 'Traffic control/road work'.
Checking property/livestock	Can be aerial or from a land vehicle.
Crop dusting/weed spraying	Can be aerial or from a land vehicle.
Mowing/harvesting	Can be aerial or from a land vehicle.
Driver/passenger when transporting freight/people	Transporting freight/people for a work-related purpose, either as a worker or bystander passenger.
Entering/exiting vehicle	If the fatality occurred at the point of, or as a result of entering/exiting the vehicle.
Fishing/trawling	Fishing and/or trawling activity (generally from a watercraft).
Loading/unloading vehicle	Loading or unloading freight (including livestock, equipment and other vehicles) onto/from a vehicle or its attached trailer/s
Mustering/herding	Can be aerial or from a land vehicle.
Repair/maintenance of vehicle	If repair/maintenance activity was being done to a vehicle.
Repair/maintenance of other or unspecified	If repair/maintenance activity is mentioned but it is not specified whether the works were being done to a vehicle or other equipment.
Surveying	Can be aerial or from a land vehicle.
Traffic control/road work	Includes traffic escort work.
Training	Undertaking training at the time (e.g. Learning to fly a plane/drive a bus).
Temporarily out of vehicle	Applies if the deceased was only spending a short time out of the vehicle (e.g. Opening gate etc) and no other categories apply.
Waterbombing/ firefighting	Can be aerial or from a land vehicle.
Spectating	Spectators of events (usually vehicle racing).
Tour/recreation	Includes formal and informal tours, general recreational activities such as sports or holiday activities – either as a guide/leader or participant.
Other farm maintenance or activity	Farm maintenance or activity not otherwise specified in any above categories.
Other work-related activity	Any work activity not otherwise specified in any above categories.
Other non-work-related activity	Non-work activity not otherwise specified in any above categories.
Unknown or not specified	If no information is available to suggest any of the above activity types.
n/a	If not applicable (e.g. No vehicle was involved).

## Vehicle incident type

Description: Identifies the type of incident that resulted in the death of the deceased (separate to the Mechanism of fatality).

Fields (set):

Vehicle incident type	Notes
Hit by moving vehicle	Being hit by a moving vehicle (not reversing), either while in/on a vehicle or not.
Hit by moving vehicle (reversing)	If the vehicle was reversing or rolling backwards and struck the deceased, either while in/on a vehicle or not.
Hit by moving object	Being hit by moving objects (that is not a vehicle), either while in/on a vehicle or not.
Hit by animal	Being hit by a living creature excluding humans.
Hit by falling object	An object falling onto the deceased, where either the deceased was in/on a vehicle, or the object fell due to the movement of a vehicle.
Hit by falling vehicle	If the vehicle fell off a higher surface, or from being suspended, onto the deceased.
Hitting stationary object	Hitting non-vehicle objects such as fences, walls, poles, bollards, ground surfaces etc.
Hitting animal	Hitting living creatures excluding humans.
Hitting moving vehicle	Hitting another vehicle which was also moving.
Hitting stationary vehicle	Hitting parked vehicles, stopped traffic etc.
Hit by other or unspecified	Deceased was hit by an unspecified or not otherwise classified entity.
Hitting other or unspecified	Deceased hit an unspecified or not otherwise classified entity.
Collisions other or unspecified	If it is not known whether deceased hit something or was hit by something.
Trapped/crushed by object	Being trapped/crushed by objects while in/on a vehicle and/or object movement caused by a vehicle.
Trapped/crushed by vehicle	Being trapped/crushed within a vehicle or by a vehicle, possibly due to vehicle rollover.
Trapped/crushed by moving machinery/equipment	Being trapped/crushed by moving machinery/equipment attached to a vehicle or due to a vehicle's movement.
Trapped/crushed other or unspecified	Deceased suffered fatal crushing injuries unspecified/not otherwise classified entity.
Vehicle submerged	If the vehicle became submerged in water or another substance resulting in the death of an occupant.
Vehicle fire	If the vehicle caught on fire and the deceased suffered fatal burn injuries.
Explosion	If the death resulted from an explosion originating from the vehicle or caused by the movement of the vehicle.
Electrocution	If the death resulted from exposure to electricity originating from the vehicle, being conducted by the vehicle, or being caused by the movement of the vehicle.
Suffocation/carbon monoxide inhalation	For deaths arising from being suffocated by vehicle fumes, smoke, or any other substances/gasses.
Exposures other or unspecified	Other exposures including pressure, heat, cold, etc.
Falls from vehicle	Falling directly from the vehicle, e.g. From the cabin or from the roof of the vehicle.
Falls other or unspecified	Deceased suffered an unspecified/not otherwise classified fall.
Other or unspecified vehicle incident	If no information is available to suggest any of the above incident types.
Not applicable	If not applicable (e.g. No vehicle was involved).

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

Description: Identifies the industry of employment of the deceased as classified by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [ANZSIC structure](#).

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 ABS [ANZSIC structure](#).

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 ABS [ANZSCO structure](#).

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 work indicator**

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).

Format: Binary (TRUE/FALSE)

- TRUE – Deceased was identified as a gig worker, or a bystander fatality involving gig work activity.
- FALSE – Deceased was not identified as a gig worker and fatality was not related to gig work activity.

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 information), this level of detail is often not readily available.

**Multiple fatalities**

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

Format: whole number (count of fatalities related to the specific event or incident, if count is 2 or higher)

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