

WORKSAFE TASMANIA NOTIFIABLE INCIDENT DATA
1 January 2014 to 4 May 2020

1. The number of dangerous incidents, incidents resulting in death, incidents resulting in serious injury or illness, reported to WorkSafe Tasmania from 2014 to 4 May 2020: broken down by year and severity of incident (dangerous, resulting in death, resulting in injury or illness). This information is set out in the columns titled Notifiable Incidents, Fatality,

YEAR	NOTIFIABLE INCIDENTS	FATALITY	SERIOUS INJURY	SERIOUS ILLNESS	DANGEROUS INCIDENT
2014	366	6	121		239
2015	412	9	149	2	252
2016	309	4	82	1	222
2017	378	4	104	2	268
2018	634	9	237	20	368
2019	347	4	110	3	230
2020	122	2	55	2	63
Grand Total	2568	38	858	30	1642

2. For the same time period, the number of notifications of a dangerous incident, incident resulting in death, or incident resulting in serious injury or illness that resulted in one or more workplace inspections broken down by year and severity of incident (dangerous, resulting in death, resulting in injury or illness);

YEAR	FATALITY	SERIOUS INJURY	SERIOUS ILLNESS	DANGEROUS INCIDENT	TOTAL WORKPLACES ATTENDED
2014	5	45	0	58	108
2015	6	66	0	68	140
2016	4	44	0	36	84
2017	4	57	1	108	170
2018	2	76	5	88	171
2019	3	40	1	56	100
2020	1	20	1	12	34
Grand Total	25	348	8	426	807

3. For the same time period, the number of formal investigations completed into dangerous incidents, incidents resulting in death, incidents resulting in serious injury or illness: broken down by year and severity of incident (dangerous, resulting in death, resulting in injury or illness)

YEAR	FATALITY	SERIOUS INJURY	SERIOUS ILLNESS	DANGEROUS INCIDENT	TOTAL FORMAL INVESTIGATIONS
2014	5	1		1	7
2015	6	9		3	18
2016	1	9		4	14
2017	4	6		8	18
2018	1	24	1	4	30
2019	3	11	1	7	22
2020	1	4		1	6
Grand Total	21	64	2	28	115

EXPLANATORY NOTES

WorkSafe Tasmania applies the *National Compliance and Enforcement Policy* issued by Safe Work Australia when determining the action to take in response to a notifiable incident. In determining which complaints or reports of incidents, injury or disease to investigate and in deciding the level of resources to be deployed, the regulators take account of the following factors:

- the severity and scale of potential or actual harm
- the seriousness of any potential breach of the law
- the duty holder's compliance history, including such matters as prior convictions and notices issued
- whether the duty holder was licensed or authorised to undertake certain types work
- strategic enforcement priorities
- the practicality of achieving results, and
- the wider relevance of the event, including matters of significant community concern.

The following circumstances or allegations are priority areas for investigations:

- work-related fatalities and serious injuries or where there is a risk of such outcomes
- non-compliance with inspectors' notices or directions
- offences against inspectors
- offences against health and safety representatives and matters relating to entry permit holders
- discrimination against workers on the basis of their work health and safety activities, and
- failure to notify incidents.

Fatalities data reported includes only those incident determined to be work-related. WorkSafe Tasmania does not usually investigate fatalities that fall within a more competent jurisdiction (for example Civil Aviation, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Tasmania Police, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, Office of National Rail Safety)

Serious Injuries - the definition of serious injury includes:

- immediate treatment as an in-patient in a hospital:
 - the amputation of any part of their body
 - a serious head injury
 - a serious eye injury
 - a serious burn
 - the separation of their skin from underlying tissue (such as degloving or scalping)
 - a spinal injury
 - the loss of a bodily function
 - serious lacerations; or
- medical treatment within 48 hours of exposure to a substance.

Serious Illnesses – includes work related infections, zoonosis and communicable diseases, reports of elevated lead levels, silicosis and more recently COVID-19.

Dangerous Incidents – a significant number of these (716) are electric shocks which are primarily attended by Consumer, Building and Occupational Services as the subject matter experts. Many of the notifications of dangerous incidents from mine sites do not require immediate action, but due to their remote locations are followed up in regular site visits and reviews of record book entries.

Of the total number of notifications received, **807** received 1 or more site visits directly related to the incident. Attendance or otherwise at a site is dependent on many factors:

- Remoteness of location vs. minor nature of injury ;
- Likelihood of gaining any useful additional insights or evidence by a visit;

- Lack of clear information at time of report whether it IS a workplace, or IS notifiable.
- Time elapsed since the incident as a result of late reporting or lack of clarity in information.
- Number of staff available for deployment at the time of the incident when triaged using the *National Compliance and Enforcement Policy*

All notifications are triaged, then followed up in some form, either by a site visit as above, or by review of written notification with resultant exchange of phone calls or emails, requests for reports, photographs, CCTV footage and other documents such as training registers/licence details.

Of the incidents reported **115** have proceeded to formal investigation. More recent incidents may not yet have reached the point of being assessed and determined to require formal investigation.