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.

**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**