

SafeWork SA

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Understanding Notifiable Incidents

A person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must notify SafeWork SA of fatalities, certain serious injuries/illnesses and dangerous incidents arising out of the conduct of the business or undertaking immediately after becoming aware of them. Incidents must be notified by the fastest possible means - phone or in writing.

Fatalities

We will investigate the cause of all reported fatalities within or related to a workplace. Workplace fatalities will fall into one of three categories:

- notifiable, work-related fatality
- non-notifiable, non-work-related fatality
- non-jurisdictional fatality, e.g. a road traffic death travelling between home and work.

A serious injury of a person includes:

- immediate treatment as an in-patient in hospital for any duration, even if the stay is not overnight or longer
- immediate treatment for:
 - amputation of any body part
 - serious head, eye or burn injury
 - degloving or scalping
 - spinal injury
 - loss of bodily function
 - serious lacerations

- medical treatment within 48 hours of exposure to a substance.

Serious illnesses

- any infection where the work is a significant contributing factor or is reliably attributable to:
 - working with micro-organisms
 - providing treatment or care to a person
 - contact with human blood or body substances
 - handling or contact with animals, or animal hides, skins, wool, hair, carcasses or waste products
- occupational zoonoses contracted in the course of work involving handling or contact with animals, or animal hides, skins, wool, hair, carcasses or waste products, including:
 - Q fever
 - Anthrax
 - Leptospirosis
 - Brucellosis
 - Hendra Virus
 - Avian Influenza
 - Psittacosis.

Dangerous Incidents

A dangerous incident means 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:

- uncontrolled escape, spillage or leakage of a substance
- uncontrolled implosion, explosion or fire
- uncontrolled escape of gas, steam or a pressurised substance
- electric shock
- fall or release from a height of any plant, substance or thing
- collapse, overturning, failure or malfunction of, or damage to, any plant that requires authorisation for use in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)*
- collapse or partial collapse of a structure
- collapse or failure of an excavation or any shoring supporting an excavation
- inrush of water, mud or gas in workings, an underground excavation or tunnel
- interruption of the main system of ventilation in an underground excavation or tunnel
- unplanned loss of control of heavy earthmoving machinery, including brake or steering failure, at a mine
- any other event prescribed by the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)*.

How to report

- Call us with life threatening issues or death on **1800 777 209**, 24hrs a day.
- Nonlife threatening on **1300 365 255**
- Use the notifiable incident form found on our landing page at safework.sa.gov.au

Note: The person with management control of the workplace must ensure that an incident site is preserved, until released by an inspector. You may aid an injured worker, remove a deceased person, ensure the site is safe, and doesn't cause any further risk to others at the workplace.

Advisory Service

We are committed to ensuring safe workplaces for all South Australians by offering free information, support, and advice to enhance workplace safety for everyone.

You can request a visit from our advisory service, which provides practical advice tailored to your workplace's industry, size, risk, and complexity.

We provide a FREE service for small to medium-size businesses, tailoring our advice to suit the individual needs of your business.

Our advisors can visit your workplace for up to 2-hours at a time, to help you understand your work health and safety responsibilities and offer practical support to improve your systems, practices, and overall approach to safety. Alternatively, you may like us to present an information session to your workers, HSRs, WHS Committees or management teams.

Book with a WHS Advisor, with the flexibility to book for a FREE visit in-person or online

 1300 365 255

 safework.sa.gov.au/about-us/advisory-service



Government of South Australia
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