

October 2023

# EI Quarterly Report

High Potential Incidents and Serious Accident Summary  
Queensland Explosives Inspectorate  
*July – September 2023 quarter (FY24Q1)*



**Resources Safety & Health**  
Queensland



# Contents

- 3 From the Chief Inspector
- 4 From the Deputy Chief Inspector
- 5 Regulator Actions – For FY24 Q1
- 6 Incident Numbers – For FY24 Q1
- 7 Security Clearances
- 8 Current Licenses
- 9 Incident Focus – Loss of control of SSAN
- 10 Incident Focus – Unsecured and uncontrolled explosives found on light vehicle
- 11 Spotlight – Firework Safety
- 12 Key engagement & activities
- 13 Contacts & Emergency Number

Unless otherwise stated data is taken to the end of FY23 Q3.



## From the Chief



**Hermann Fasching,**  
**Chief Inspector of Explosives**  
**Chief Inspector Mineral Mines and Quarries**

The Minister for Resources Safety Reset is being held this October. This year's theme is "If its not safe or you're unsure, stop" encouraging workers from all areas of the resources sector to see hazards, stop work and report without fear.

Many sites have held their resets and will continue through the month of October and early November with the aim of having every worker on every site stop for safety. This is the second Safety Reset to encompass the whole of the resources sector and I encourage every site and every worker to participate in stopping for safety. Information on the Safety Reset and how sites can report can be found on the [RSHQ website](#).

Also front of mind at this time of year are the increase in the number of fireworks displays around Queensland as we start to celebrate Christmas and bring in the new year. I encourage all event organisers and workers in the fireworks industry to ensure that they know their obligations to ensure the safety of workers and the community.



## Our vision – ZERO SERIOUS HARM

## From the Deputy Chief



### Snezana Bajic, Deputy Chief Inspector Explosives

Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) and Transport and Main Roads (TMR) teamed up in September for Operation Cyclone, which ran across six different locations including Dingo, Stanwell, Nebo, Moranbah, Woodstock and Bajool.

30% of the vehicles inspected failed the inspection and were found to have defects. Although the result is disappointing, our Inspectors potentially prevented some deadly outcomes. The Explosives Inspectorate will support industry to transport dangerous goods, like explosives, safely, and we will continue to help improve safety across the resources sector.

These vehicles are capable of carrying a very large quantities of explosives and it's the responsibility of the both the driver and consignor, to ensure their vehicles are compliant. Compliance with safety regulations is paramount to the well-being of industry operators, other road users and emergency response services.

We will continue to share learnings from the incidents which have been reported to us through publications, meetings and presentations. In the following sections you will notice increased security risk incidents, with a lack of preventative controls from similar industry incidents not implemented in a timely manner. The key to success is to learn from others, go back to basics and implement simplified, engaging and inclusive systems.

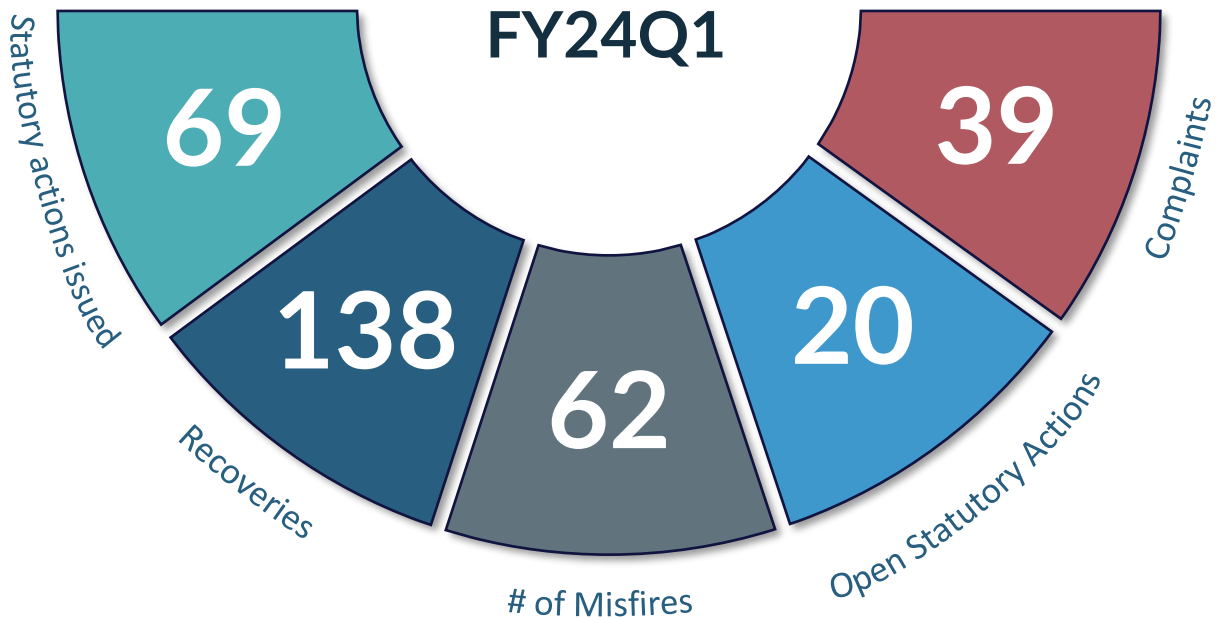
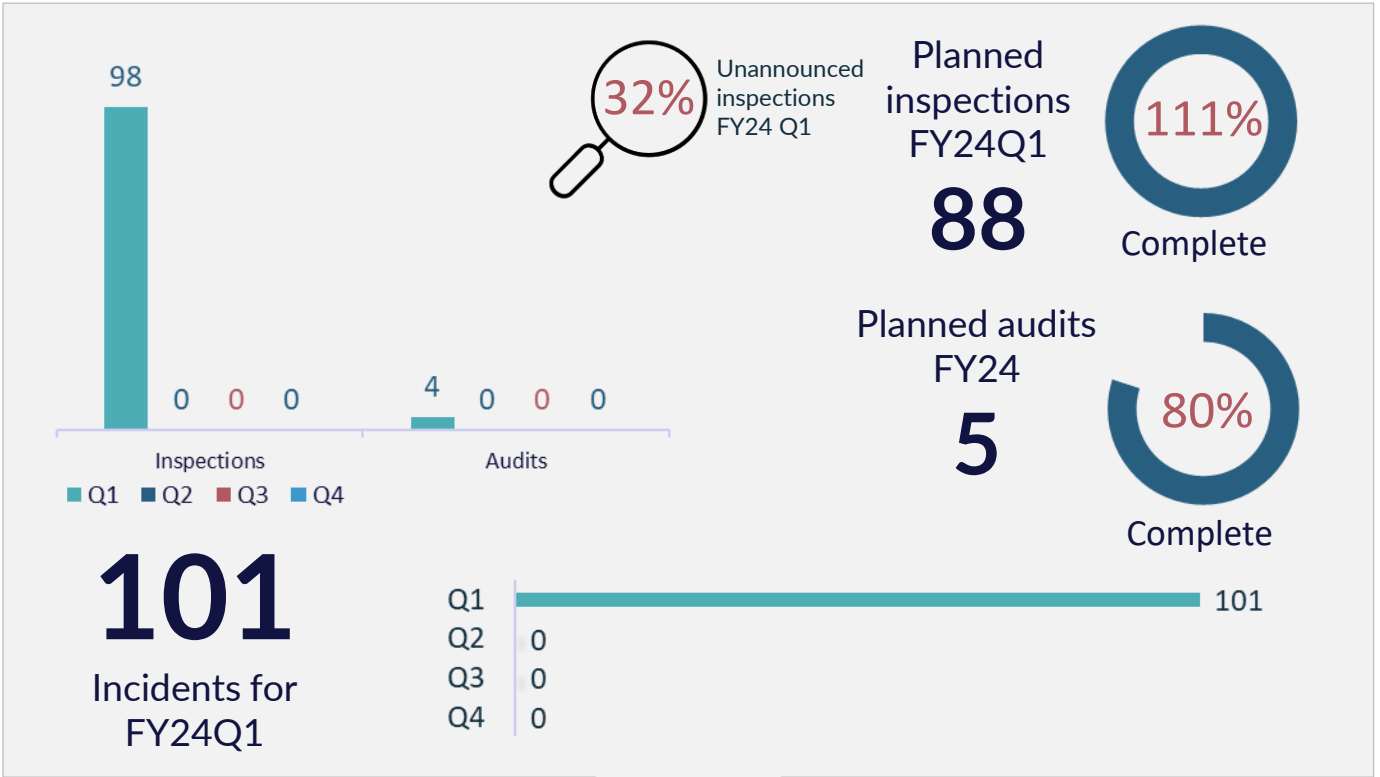
With the holiday season fast approaching, I want to remind Fireworks contractors to ensure they submit fireworks display notifications on time to allow for safety checks. Further information on notifications can be found later in this report.



## Our vision – ZERO SERIOUS HARM



# Regulator Actions

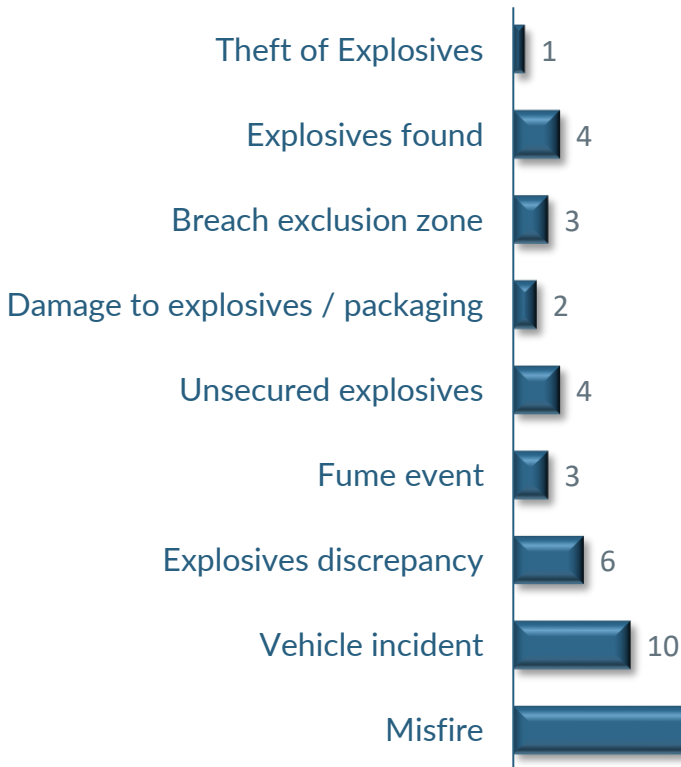
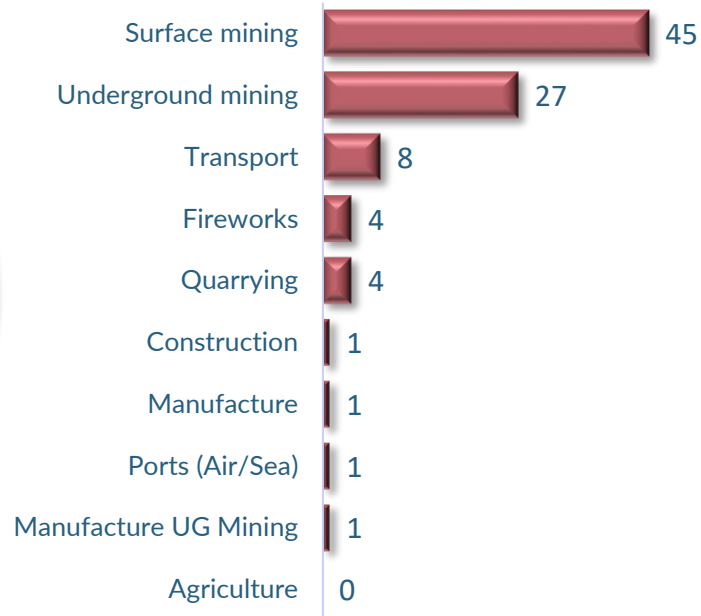


# The Incident numbers for FY24Q1

## Incidents by Industry Sector



## Incidents by sector top 10

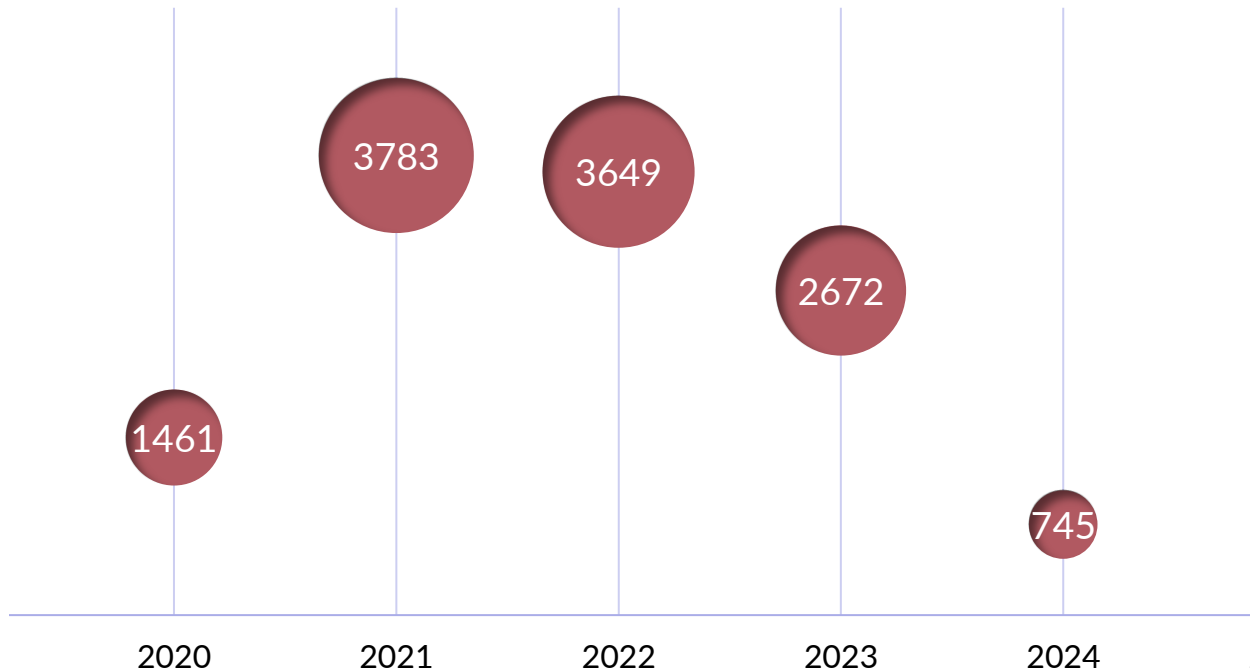


## Top 10 incidents by type

*What are the key control failures or areas of safety that have impacted these outcomes.*

# Security Clearances

## Security Clearances by financial year (2024 Q1)



## Transitional Security Clearances



If you held a security sensitive authority (licence) on 1 February 2020, the transitional security clearance arrangements will expire depending on which of the following applies;

If the **licence is renewed after 1 February 2020**, the transitional arrangements expire on the expiry date of the renewed licence (up to the maximum of 1 February 2025) or earlier if the licence is surrendered or cancelled

If the licence is **not renewed** after 1 February 2020, the transitional arrangements will expire when the licence expires (or is surrendered or cancelled)

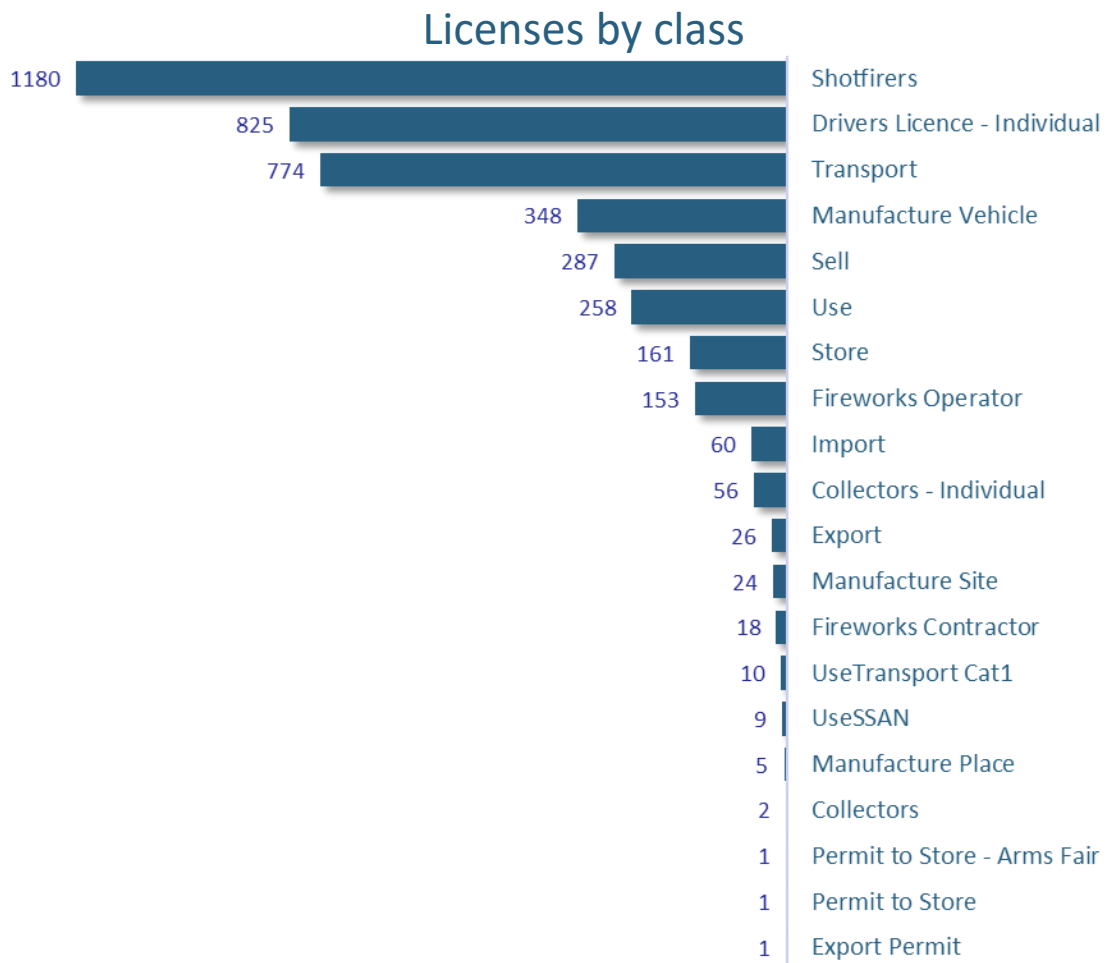
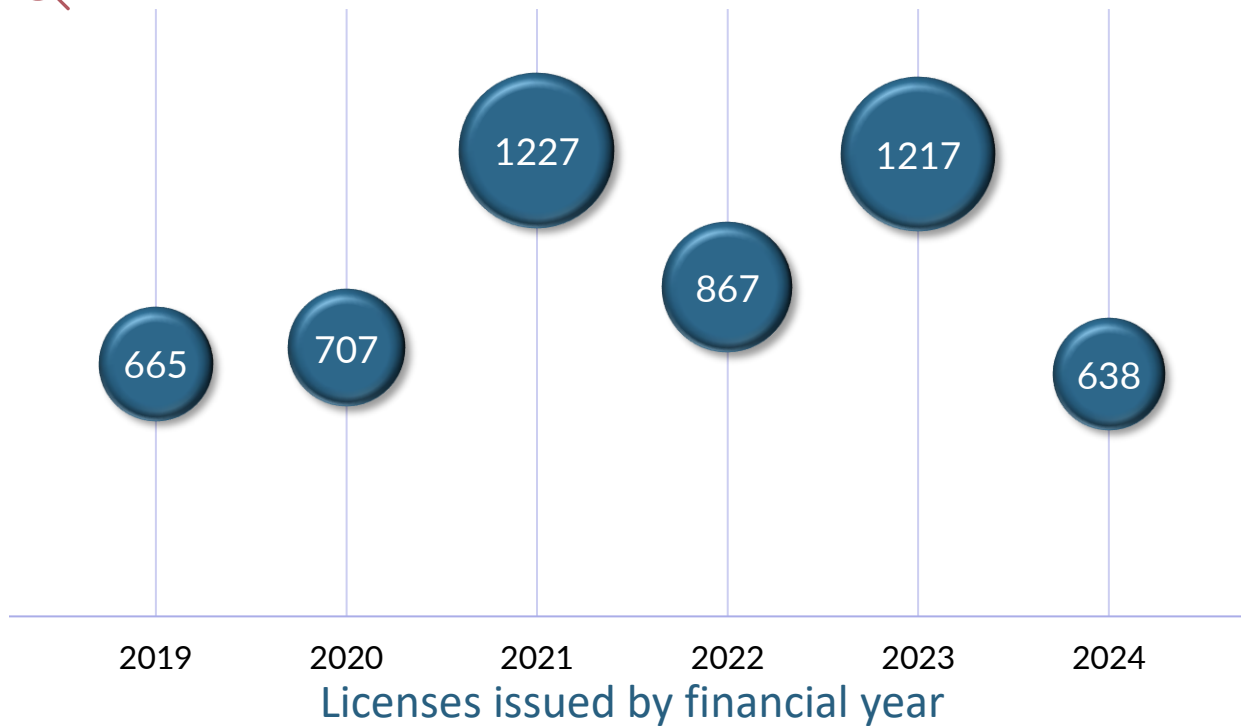
Check your Security Clearance status:

[www.qescstatus.qld.gov.au](http://www.qescstatus.qld.gov.au)

For more information:

[Security clearances for explosives and fireworks](#)

# Current Licenses

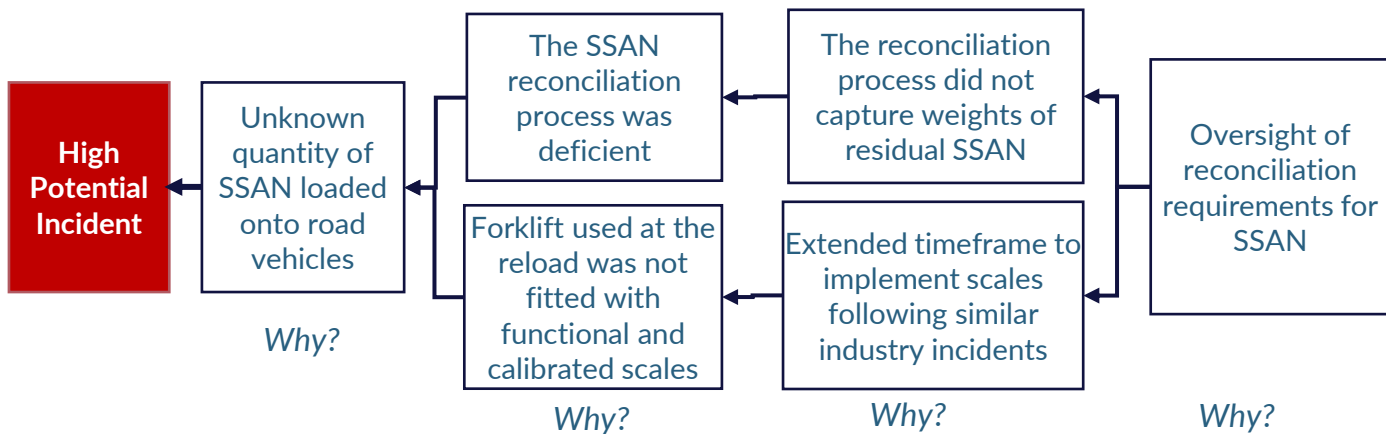




# Incident focus

## Loss of Control of SSAN

On two separate occasions, a container partially loaded with Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN) prill was removed from a mine site and transported back to the explosives' supplier for refilling (9.83T and 8.51T respectively). The removal of the containers with SSAN in them from site was not detected in either the daily or monthly explosives reconciliation processes.



## Contributing factors

- Preventative controls from similar industry incidents not implemented on site in a timely manner.
- Forklift not fitted with scales.
- No written site process for tracking movement of SSAN containers.
- No stocktake of residual SSAN.
- No process for capturing weights of residual SSAN in empty containers.

## Key takeaways

- Ensure systems are implemented to account for all residual and waste SSAN in daily, weekly and monthly reconciliations.
- Authority Holders must continually strive to minimise the variation in bulk product reconciliations.
- Forklifts must be fitted with operational scales to track weights.
- If weights of containers are not identified, incorrect weight distribution of the road transport vehicle may occur.



## Further information

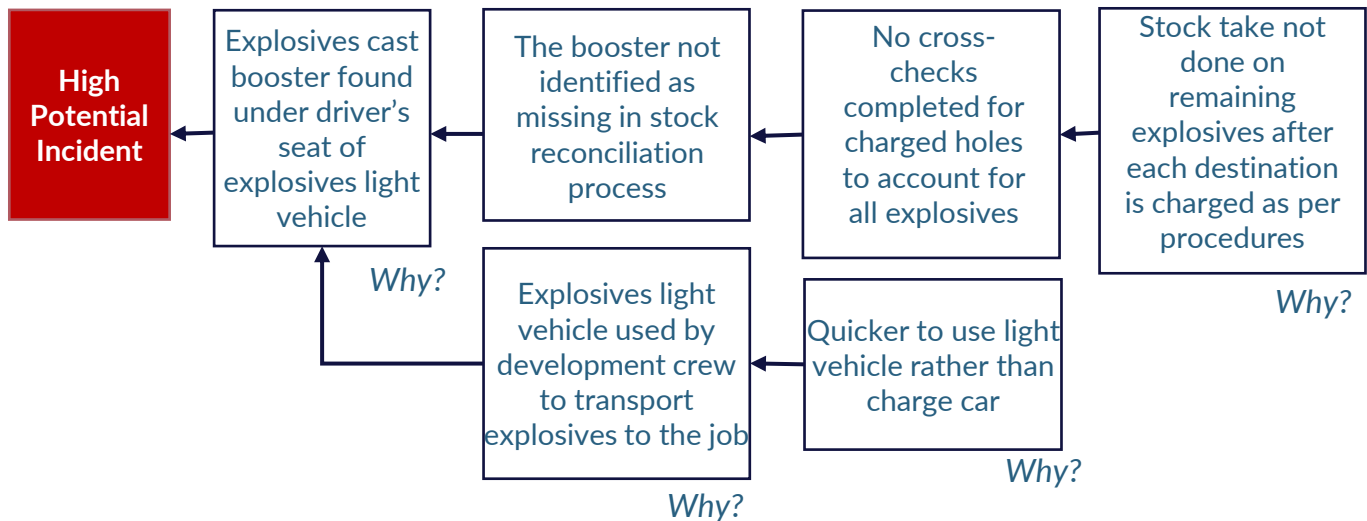
- [Queensland Explosives Inspectorate Information Bulletin 53](#)
- [RSHQ Explosives Safety Alert 104 – Incorrect consignment of SSAN](#)



# Incident focus

## Unsecured and uncontrolled explosives found in a light vehicle

Two operators were cleaning a light vehicle when they found an explosives Pentex 25g booster under the driver's seat.



### Contributing factors

- Unsecured explosive in cabin of vehicle for unknown period of time.
- Explosives not transported in a compliant manner.
- Shotfirers not conducting reconciliations of explosives after each task.
- Magazine stocktakes did not identify the unsecured booster.
- Personnel failed to handle explosives in accordance with internal and legislative requirements.



### Key takeaways

- Shotfirers shall ensure that all explosives are accurately accounted for.
- Shotfirers are reminded of their obligation to ensure the security of explosives used in blasting activities
- Increased risk of theft when control of explosives is lost.
- Effective training of employees of the safe use and security of explosives.
- Each blast conducted must have a blast management plan and accurate records kept in accordance with legislative requirements.
- Explosives reconciliation processes must incorporate explosives delivered, stored, used and disposed of.

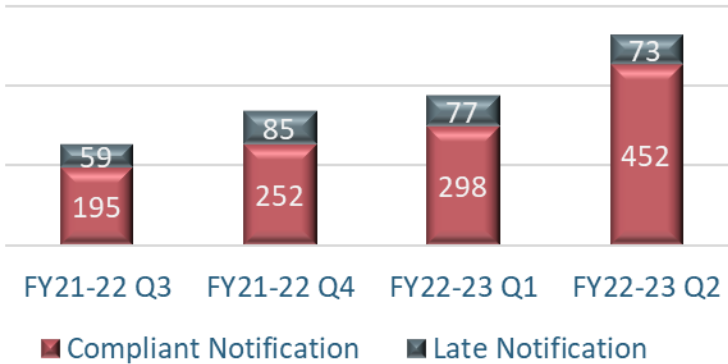
### Further information

- [Queensland Explosives Inspectorate Safety Alert 77 – Explosives Found in Shotfirers Vehicle Returned from Workshop.](#)
- [Section 152 \(b\) \(iv\) Explosives Regulation 2017.](#)



# Spotlight - Firework Safety

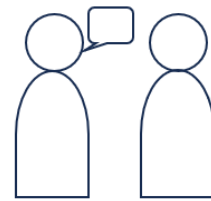
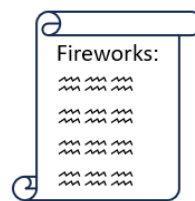
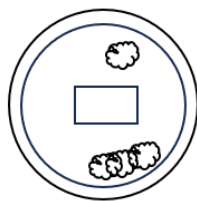
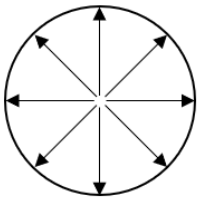
## Fireworks Notifications



As we enter the peak firework season, our goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone attending a fireworks display.

This begins with ensuring that all stakeholders, including event organisers, understand of their roles and responsibilities in maintaining a safe environment.

The responsibility for safety is a shared commitment between the fireworks contractor and the event organiser. This collaboration includes engaging and consulting with the local community, ensuring the implementation of security measures for crowd management and access control to the fireworks display area (including if necessary, deploying security personnel and constructing physical barriers), formulating thorough emergency plans, and maintaining control over the storage and security of fireworks materials. Together, these measures ensure the safety and well-being of all attendees and the surrounding community during fireworks events.



Firework contractors carry the responsibility of providing RSHQ with information to facilitate safety checks. This involves providing a minimum of 7 days advance notification to RSHQ, except when using a moving platform in the display in which 14 days advanced notice is necessary. These notifications should include details such as the specific type of fireworks, information about the firework supplier, the identities of those accountable for executing the display, and an accurate site plan.

The site plan's design process must consider critical elements, including the calculation of minimum clearance distances, ensuring that firework effects and hazardous debris remain within the designated display site, and assessing the potential impact of weather conditions. These measures facilitate the smooth conduct of safety checks by RSHQ and significantly enhance the overall safety of the fireworks event.

The collaborative effort between organisers, contractors and RSHQ ensure that everyone can enjoy the event knowing that their safety and well-being is of paramount importance. We look forward to continued cooperation in making each fireworks display a safe and memorable experience for all.

### Further information

- [Organising a safe and legal fireworks display](#)
- [Queensland Code of Practice – Control of Outdoor Fireworks Displays](#)

# Key engagement & activities

## UPCOMING EVENTS



[International Society of Explosives Engineers \(ISEE\) Drill & Blast Down Under Conference – November](#)



[Quarry and Construction Blasting Forum - November](#)

## PUBLICATIONS THIS QUARTER



[Information Bulletin – Government magazine fees for services provided 2023-24](#)



[Information Bulletin – Regulatory and security clearance fees 2023-24](#)



[Safety Bulletin – Proximity of fireworks displays to aerodromes, helipads and airports](#)

## OTHER BUSINESS



### **Reminder to all authority holders - Processing times**

Authority Holders are reminded that the Inspectorate processes applications and notifications in the order that they are received.

For licence or security clearance applications and renewals applicants are asked to ensure that they apply with enough time to ensure their applications are processed before their previous authority expires. Processing times may vary, however the below may be taken as a guide:

- [Licence applications 20 business days](#)
- [Queensland Explosives Security Clearance 20-40 business days](#)

[Fireworks display](#) and [blasting](#) notifications must be submitted at least 7 days before the activity

Fireworks display notifications where a moving platform is to be used must be submitted 14 days before the activity

Explosives [import](#) and [export](#) notifications must be submitted before the activity (preferably at least 7 days)



## Contact

### Licensing

GPO Box 1321

Brisbane QLD 4001

Phone: (07) 3199 8023

Email: [explicensing@rshq.qld.gov.au](mailto:explicensing@rshq.qld.gov.au)



### General Enquiries

GPO Box 1321

Brisbane QLD 4001

Phone: (07) 3199 8023

Email: [explosives@rshq.qld.gov.au](mailto:explosives@rshq.qld.gov.au)

### Emergencies

For emergencies where someone is seriously injured and in need of urgent medical help, life or property is under threat, or if you have witnessed a serious accident or crime **first contact 000**.



You can then report explosives incidents or emergencies to the **Explosives Hotline 1300 739 868** (24/7).

<https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/mining-energy-water/explosives-fireworks>

