



## Diocese of Waikato and Taranaki

### Notifiable Illnesses, Injuries and Incidents

These definitions and examples are taken from the WorkSafe website:

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/hswa-fact-sheets/what-events-need-to-be-notified>

#### What is a notifiable illness or injury?

These are specified serious work-related illnesses or injuries.

All injuries or illnesses which require a person to be admitted to hospital for immediate treatment are notifiable.

The other types of injuries and illnesses that also require notification are set out in the following table (Table 1).

Table 1: Notifiable injuries and illnesses<sup>[1]</sup>

TRIGGER	EXAMPLES
An injury or illness that requires (or would usually require) the person to be admitted to hospital for immediate treatment	'Admitted to a hospital' means being admitted to hospital as an in-patient for any length of time – it doesn't include being taken to the hospital for out-patient treatment by a hospital's A&E department, or for corrective surgery at a later time, such as straightening a broken nose.
The amputation of any part of the body that requires immediate treatment (other than first aid)	Amputation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ a limb (eg an arm or leg)</li><li>▪ other parts of the body (eg hand, foot, finger, toe, nose, ear).</li></ul>
A serious head injury that requires immediate treatment (other than first aid)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ fractured skull</li><li>▪ a head injury that results in losing consciousness</li><li>▪ blood clot or bleeding in the brain</li><li>▪ damage to the skull that may affect organ or facial function</li><li>▪ a head injury that results in temporary or permanent memory loss.</li></ul>



<p>A serious eye injury that requires immediate treatment (other than first aid)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ injury that results in, or is likely to result in, the loss of an eye or vision (total or partial)</li> <li>▪ injury caused by an object entering the eye (eg metal fragment, wood chip)</li> <li>▪ contact with any substance that could cause serious eye damage.</li> </ul> <p>Does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ exposure to a substance or object that only causes discomfort to the eye.</li> </ul>
<p>A serious burn that requires immediate treatment (other than first aid)</p>	<p>A burn that needs intensive or critical care such as a compression garment or skin graft.</p> <p>Does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a burn treatable by washing the wound and applying a dressing.</li> </ul>
<p>A spinal injury that requires immediate treatment (other than first aid)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ injury to the cervical, thoracic, lumbar or sacral vertebrae, including discs and spinal cord.</li> </ul> <p>Does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ back strain or bruising.</li> </ul>
<p>Loss of a bodily function that requires immediate treatment (other than first aid) (eg through electric shock or acute reaction to a substance used at work)</p>	<p>Loss of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ consciousness (includes fainting due to a work-related cause eg from exposure to a harmful substance or heat)</li> <li>▪ speech</li> <li>▪ movement of a limb (eg long bone fractures)</li> <li>▪ function of an internal organ</li> <li>▪ senses (eg smell, touch, taste, sight or hearing).</li> </ul> <p>Does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ fainting not due to a work-related cause</li> <li>▪ a sprain, strain or fracture that does not require hospitalisation (except for skull and spinal fractures).</li> </ul>
<p>Serious lacerations that require immediate treatment (other than first aid)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ serious deep cuts that cause muscle, tendon, nerve or blood vessel damage, or permanent impairment</li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ tears to flesh or tissue – this may include stitching or other treatment to prevent loss of blood or bodily function and/or the wound getting infected. Does not include:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ superficial cuts treatable by cleaning the wound and applying a dressing</li> <li>▪ lacerations that only require a few stitches from a GP’s office</li> <li>▪ minor tears to flesh or tissue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Skin separating from an underlying tissue (degloving or scalping) that requires immediate treatment (other than first aid)

- skin separating from underlying tissue where the tendons, bones, or muscles are exposed.

<p>Contracting a serious infection (including occupational zoonoses) to which the carrying out of work is a significant contributing factor including any infection due to carrying out work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ with micro-organisms</li> <li>▪ that involves providing treatment or care to a person</li> <li>▪ that involves contact with human blood or bodily substances</li> <li>▪ that involves handling or contact with animals, their hides, skins, wool or hair, animal carcasses or waste products or</li> <li>▪ that involves handling or contact with fish or marine mammals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ diseases caught from animals (eg leptospirosis) or</li> <li>▪ <i>E. coli</i> infections</li> <li>▪ Legionnaire’s Disease caught from working with soil, compost or potting mix.</li> </ul>
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An injury or illness that requires (or would usually require) medical treatment within 48 hours of exposure to a substance (a natural

Burns from skin exposure or inhalation of toxic chemicals that require medical treatment.





or artificial substance in any form  
eg solid, liquid, gas or vapour)

An illness or injury declared in regulations to be a notifiable injury or illness

Any illness or injury listed in Schedule 5 of the Health and Safety At Work (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations 2016.

In this table:

- 'Medical treatment' is considered to be treatment by a registered medical practitioner (eg a doctor).
- 'Immediate treatment' is urgent treatment, and includes treatment by a registered medical practitioner, registered nurse or paramedic.
- If immediate treatment is not readily available (eg because the injury happened at a remote site), the notification must still be made.

### What is a notifiable incident?

A notifiable incident is an unplanned or uncontrolled incident in relation to a workplace that exposes the health and safety of workers or others to a serious risk arising from immediate or imminent exposure to:

- a substance escaping, spilling, or leaking
- an implosion, explosion or fire
- gas or steam escaping
- a pressurised substance escaping
- electric shock (from anything that could cause a lethal shock, for example it would not include shocks due to static electricity, from extra low voltage equipment or from defibrillators used for medical reasons)
- the fall or release from height of any plant, substance, or thing
- damage to or collapse, overturning, failing or malfunctioning of any plant that is required to be authorised for use under regulations
- the collapse or partial collapse of a structure
- the collapse or failure of an excavation or 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
- a collision between two vessels, a vessel capsize, or the inrush of water into a vessel
- any other incident declared in regulation to be a notifiable incident, for example those listed in:
  - regulation 6 of the Health and Safety At Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016
  - Schedule 5 of the Health and Safety At Work (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations 2016
  - regulation 33 of the Health and Safety At Work (Major Hazard Facilities) Regulations 2016





- regulation 70 of the Health and Safety at Work (Petroleum Exploration and Extraction) Regulations 2016.

Notifiable incidents do not include controlled activities that form part of the business or undertaking (eg the controlled release of water from a dam).

A notifiable incident is where someone's health or safety is seriously endangered or threatened.

People may be put at serious risk even if they were some distance from the incident (eg from a gas leak).

A notifiable incident also covers the incidents specified above which may have only resulted in minor (non-notifiable) injuries but had the potential to cause serious injury, illness or death.

