

**Lisa Batt**

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**From:** QAS LASN Darling Downs Operations Supervisors  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 1:47 PM  
**To:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Subject:** Major Incident Update

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Filing

Good Afternoon Michael

Information I have received regarding the incident at Charleville overnight:

1. [redacted] transported Charleville to TBH by RFDS:

- Head and Arm injury.
- Chest tightness and pain

2. [redacted] were transported Charleville to RBH:

- Upper and lower limb burns
- Chest and Abdo burns

- ?# Hip

3. Today 06/09/2014 RFDS is transporting another patient Charleville to RBH:

- Head Laceration
- Chest Pain

Regards,

Peter

**A/Senior Operations Supervisor – Darling Downs Local Ambulance Service Network**

| Queensland Ambulance Service | Department of Health |

| 166-168 Herries Street Toowoomba, QLD 4350 | PO Box 7, Toowoomba, QLD 4350 |

| P: [redacted] F: (07) 46327 870 | qasr3opssuper@ambulance.qld.gov.au |



**Lisa Batt**

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**From:** QAS PSDU  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 3:06 AM  
**To:** Craig Emery; Michael Metcalfe; Anthony King; Sean Mutchmor; Peter Wood; Grant Webster; David Hartley; Russell Nicholas; Richard Robson-Petch; QAS HQ All Media Team; Danny Murphy  
**Subject:** Incident Notification QFES Incident Truck Explosion  
**Attachments:** QFES Incident Truck Explosion 05092014.doc  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Incident: QFES and QPS officer injured following Truck explosion  
Incident No.: 05753230  
Location: Mitchell Hwy Wyandra  
Dot Point: 1  
Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Time: 21:54hrs

Incident

- Truck carrying Ammonia Nitrate ran off a bridge and into the creek.
- Truck on fire and exploded whilst QFES and QPS Officers in attendance. QAS not on scene.
- QAS stopped and stage 1 Km from the scene on seeing 1 to 2 large explosions.
- Initial confusion from the scene with reports of deceased and 2 missing.
- Poor communication at scene radios and Sat Phone not working.
- 8 patient in total 1 red, 3 yellow and 4 green.
- QFES officers,  QPS,  truck driver and  bystanders injured.
- All patients transported initially to Charleville Hospital.
- 4 patient flown by RFDS to RBH

Regards

Rachel

Rachel Latimer | A/Patient Safety and Distribution Officer | Patient Safety and Distribution Unit, Queensland Ambulance Service

E:  | P:  | A: 125 Kedron Park Rd, Kedron ,QLD 4031



# PSDU INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

<b>LASN:</b>	South West	<b>DATE:</b>	05/09/2014
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Mitchell Hwy, Wyandra	<b>TIME:</b>	02:48
<b>INCIDENT: (Number)</b>	05752897	<b>PSDU OFFICER:</b>	Rachel Latimer

**INCIDENT DESCRIPTION**

21:53 - Possible truck on fire

21:56 - Truck carrying Ammonia Nitrate driven off bridge into river. 1  occupant out of truck with QFES and being treated.

22:20 - QAS unit arrived 1 Km from incident and have seen 1 to 2 large explosions. Staging at this point not proceeding any further.

22:43 - Initial report of deceased and 3 unaccounted for.

22:52 - Reports of 6 injured and 2 unaccounted for.

23:56 - 1 critical still on scene possibly deceased. 6 patients brought to the staging area.

00:03 departing scene with last patient.

**QAS RESPONSE**

Helicopter/Medical Officer/specialised response, number of crews/officers. IMT command/control names.

**CALL RECEIVED:** 21:54

**FIRST UNIT ON SCENE:** 22:23 (staged 1 Km from scene)

**RESPONSE TIME (mins)** 29

**RESOURCES:** 1 x ACP crew Charleville and OIC. Cunnamulla officer dispatched but cancelled.

2 fixed wing RFDS and R566 from Roma.

**ISSUES OBSERVED**

Response delays, Dispatch delays, clinical issue, significant event, etc.

23:07 - Finding personnel for the incident -

22:02 - (ESCAD) - TOM report - 361A Priority on QAS. 1K9MA Truck fully engulfed and into river. 30 Km from Charleville - Truck has gone off the bridge. Truck is safe.

Poor communication from scene due to radios and Sat Phone not working.

**INTERVENTIONS OBSERVED**

Toowoomba SOS called in to Toowoomba OpsCen to assist



	<p>with event.</p> <p>All QAS vehicle staged away from the incident initially and patient brought to the units.</p> <p>QAS transport 4 patients</p> <p>[redacted] drove [redacted] and 3 patient to Charleville hospital.</p> <p>QCC advised</p>
<p><b>INTERVENTIONS BY PSDU</b></p>	<p>Contact OCS regarding QAS safety of personnel - Nil injured all QAS personnel safe.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOMES OBSERVED</b></p>	<p>Patients - 1 Red - 3 Yellow - 4 Green</p> <p>1 - [redacted] Head Injury, significant burns to both left and right arm, abdomen and foot.</p> <p>1 - [redacted] - age unknown and [redacted] multiple fractures to hand, hip pain and facial laceration. 30 meters from the blast.</p> <p>1 - [redacted] age unknown and [redacted] Chest pain, injuries to hands.</p> <p>1 - [redacted] - age unknown and [redacted] Potential chest and abdominal injuries from blast shock wave.</p> <p>1 - [redacted] - age unknown and [redacted] Head injury, KO'D now GCS 15 with sever chest pain.</p> <p>1 - [redacted] - age unknown and [redacted] Facial laceration, KO'd and now ALOC.</p> <p>1 - [redacted] - age unknown and [redacted] Pain in upper left arm.</p> <p>1 - [redacted] - age unknown and [redacted] Stiffness and soreness in the neck and should area.</p> <p>4 patients to be flown to RBH. 4 patients remaining in Charleville.</p>
<p><b>OTHER INFORMATION</b></p>	<p>No QAS units on scene</p> <p>QPS and QFES on scene currently</p> <p>Initial truck incinerated.</p> <p>2 x QFES truck destroyed</p>



1 x QPS vehicle damaged

Mitchell Hwy cut between Charleville and Cunnamulla.  
However there is a detour route around bridge which has  
been destroyed.

RTI Release

**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Craig Emery  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 5:40 AM  
**To:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Subject:** Fwd: Incident Notification QFES Incident Truck Explosion  
**Attachments:** QFES Incident Truck Explosion 05092014.doc; ATT00001.htm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Mick

PSDU has a slightly different account of patient numbers?

Can you confirm some very simple dots points that we can provide to DG office and Cameron.

Thanks

C

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** QAS PSDU <QAS.PSDU@ambulance.qld.gov.au>  
**Date:** 6 September 2014 3:05:41 am AEST  
**To:** Craig Emery [redacted], Michael Metcalfe [redacted], Anthony King [redacted], Sean Mutchmor [redacted], Peter Wood [redacted], Grant Webster [redacted], David Hartley [redacted], Russell Nicholas [redacted], Richard Robson-Petch [redacted], QAS HQ All Media Team [redacted], Danny Murphy [redacted]  
**Subject:** Incident Notification QFES Incident Truck Explosion

**Incident:** QFES and QPS officer injured following Truck explosion  
**Incident No.:** 05753230  
**Location:** Mitchell Hwy Wyandra  
**Dot Point:** 1  
**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
**Time:** 21:54hrs

**Incident**

- Truck carrying Ammonia Nitrate ran off a bridge and into the creek.
- Truck on fire and exploded whilst QFES and QPS Officers in attendance. QAS not on scene.
- QAS stopped and stage 1 Km from the scene on seeing 1 to 2 large explosions.
- Initial confusion from the scene with reports of deceased and 2 missing.
- Poor communication at scene radios and Sat Phone not working.
- 8 patient in total 1 red, 3 yellow and 4 green.



- QFES officers,  QPS,  truck driver and  bystanders injured.
- All patients transported initially to Charleville Hospital.
- 4 patient flown by RFDS to RBH

Regards

Rachel

**Rachel Latimer | A/Patient Safety and Distribution Officer | Patient Safety and Distribution Unit,  
Queensland Ambulance Service**

E:  | P:  | A: 125 Kedron Park Rd, Kedron ,QLD 4031

RTI Release

**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Craig Emery  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 6:15 AM  
**To:** Cameron Thompson  
**Subject:** Incident at Wyandra - south of Charleville

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good morning Cameron

For your information, there was an incident of note south of Charleville overnight.

Emergency services were called to a truck roll over. The truck subsequently exploded while police and the fire service were on scene. QAS were stage approximately 1 km from the scene.  fire officers and  police officer were injured by the blast. There were also some bystanders injured.

In total eight patients were transported to Charleville hospital with various injuries. I understand QAS transported 4 patients while the other 4 with minor injuries were transported in the police vehicle. 4 patients were subsequently transferred by RFDS Brisbane for further treatment.

QAS staff were not injured in the incident.

Cameron, I can provide more detail as required but the above is a quick summary as I understand it currently.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Craig

Sent from my iPhone

RTI RELEASES



**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Craig Emery  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 6:19 AM  
**To:** michael.cleary [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Incident at Wyandra - south of Charleville

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

>  
> Good morning Michael

> For your information, there was an incident of note south of Charleville overnight.  
>  
> Emergency services were called to a truck roll over. The truck subsequently exploded while police and the fire service were on scene. QAS were stage approximately 1 km from the scene. [redacted] fire officers and [redacted] police officer were injured by the blast. There were also some bystanders injured.  
>  
> In total eight patients were transported to Charleville hospital with various injuries. I understand QAS transported 4 patients while the other 4 with minor injuries were transported in the police vehicle. 4 patients were subsequently transferred by RFDS Brisbane for further treatment.  
>  
> QAS staff were not injured in the incident.  
>  
> Michael, I can provide more detail as required but the above is a quick summary as I understand it currently.  
>  
> Please let me know if you require anything further.  
>  
> Craig  
> [redacted]  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone

RTI Request

**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Craig Emery  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 6:25 AM  
**To:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Cc:** Kirrily Magill  
**Subject:** Fwd: Incident at Wyandra - south of Charleville

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI. I've sent this broad info to Cameron and Michael Cleary. Not sure if they will want anything further. Wouldn't think so???

C

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Craig Emery [redacted]  
**Date:** 6 September 2014 6:15:06 am AEST  
**To:** Cameron Thompson [redacted]  
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Please let me know if you require anything further.

Craig

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone



**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 7:44 AM  
**To:** Craig Emery  
**Subject:** Re: Incident Notification QFES Incident Truck Explosion

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Craig,

Have just reviewed the case. Rachel's version below is consistent with final information in the case notes. There were multiple and continued versions as the event progressed but the numbers below seem accurate.

4 patients were subsequently retrieved by RFDS, 2 x Toowoomba and 2 x Royal Brisbane. I am unable to confirm which of these patients are the QFES officers.

There are still conflicting reports around vehicles lost/damaged, with QFES reporting 2 x vehicles destroyed and QAS reporting one. I understand a QPS vehicle was heavily impacted by shrapnel.

Give me a call to discuss as required.

Cheers  
Mick

Sent from my iPad

On 6 Sep 2014, at 5:39 am, "Craig Emery" [redacted] wrote:

Hi Mick

PSDU has a slightly different account of patient numbers?

Can you confirm some very simple dots points that we can provide to DG office and Cameron.

Thanks

C

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

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**Date:** 6 September 2014 3:05:41 am AEST

**To:** Craig Emery [redacted] Michael Metcalfe

[redacted], Anthony King  
>, Sean Mutchmor  
[redacted], Peter Wood  
Grant Webster  
[redacted], David Hartley  
>, Russell Nicholas  
[redacted] Richard Robson-Petch [redacted]

[Redacted] QAS HQ All Media Team  
[Redacted], Danny Murphy

**Subject: Incident Notification QFES Incident Truck Explosion**

Incident: QFES and QPS officer injured following Truck explosion  
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Dot Point: 1  
Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014  
Time: 21:54hrs

**Incident**

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- Truck on fire and exploded whilst QFES and QPS Officers in attendance QAS not on scene.
- QAS stopped and stage 1 Km from the scene on seeing 1 to 2 large explosions.
- Initial confusion from the scene with reports of deceased and 2 missing.
- Poor communication at scene radios and Sat Phone not working.
- 8 patient in total 1 red, 3 yellow and 4 green
- [Redacted] QFES officers, [Redacted] QPS, [Redacted] truck driver and [Redacted] bystanders injured.
- All patients transported initially to Charleville Hospital.
- 4 patient flown by RFDS to RBH

Regards

Rachel

**Rachel Latimer | A/Patient Safety and Distribution Officer | Patient Safety and Distribution Unit, Queensland Ambulance Service**

E: [Redacted] | P: [Redacted] | A: 125 Kedron Park Rd,  
Kedron ,QLD 4031

<QFES Incident Truck Explosion 05092014.doc>

**RECEIVED**

**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 7:50 AM  
**To:** Craig Emery  
**Cc:** Kirrily Magill  
**Subject:** Re: Incident at Wyandra - south of Charleville

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

The only difference is that the CCS in Toowoomba this morning reports two patients to RBH and two to TBH, but the rest seems consistent.

Cheers  
Mick

Sent from my iPad

On 6 Sep 2014, at 6:24 am, "Craig Emery" [redacted] wrote:

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C

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Craig



Sent from my iPhone

RTI Release



**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Kirrily Magill  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Cc:** Craig Emery  
**Subject:** Re: Incident at Wyandra - south of Charleville

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Thanks.  
Let me know if you need me to do anything.  
K

Kirrily Magill  
A/Director, Office of the Commissioner  
Queensland Ambulance Service  
Ph: [redacted]  
Mob: [redacted]

On 6 Sep 2014, at 7:49 am, "Michael Metcalfe" [redacted] wrote:

The only difference is that the CCS in Toowoomba this morning reports two patients to RBH and two to TBH, but the rest seems consistent.

Cheers  
Mick

Sent from my iPad

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[redacted]  
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Craig

Sent from my iPhone

RTI Release

**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** QAS LASN Darling Downs Operations Supervisors  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 12:35 AM  
**To:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Subject:** Major Incident Charleville

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Filing

Good Evening

Charleville Truck Rollover and subsequent explosion multiple patients

[http://earreports/perc/APEX\\_UTILIS.perc\\_open\\_image\\_direct.get\\_image?l t incident=05752897](http://earreports/perc/APEX_UTILIS.perc_open_image_direct.get_image?l t incident=05752897)

- Unit 3143 with the assistance of QPS unit transported a total of 6 patients to Charleville hospital  
 Civilian patients,  QFES officers. Major concerns being all patients transported were in close proximity to the truck when the explosion occurred
- 1 patient deceased at scene, gender and age unknown
- Unit 3401 transporting 1 patient  to Charleville hospital with multiple injuries
- QFES requested further QAS assistance at scene on a standby as currently fighting multiple fires and noxious gas still in the atmosphere, Unit 3143 has been dispatched code 2 with a crew of 2 back to the scene.
- 7 Patients transported to Charleville Hospital.
- QCC Clinical Co-ordinator Peter Miller has been involved from the beginning and has dispatched air resources to Charleville.

Regards,

Peter

**A/Senior Operations Supervisor - Darling Downs Local Ambulance Service Network**

Queensland Ambulance Service | Department of Health |

166-168 Herries Street Toowoomba, QLD 4350 | PO Box 7, Toowoomba, QLD 4350 |

P:  F: (07) 46327 870 | [qasr3opssuper@ambulance.qld.gov.au](mailto:qasr3opssuper@ambulance.qld.gov.au) |



**Lisa Batt**

---

**From:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 12:38 AM  
**To:** Craig Emery; Russell Bowles  
**Subject:** Fwd: Major Incident Charleville  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.jpg

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** QAS LASN Darling Downs Operations Supervisors  
<QASLASN.DarlingDownsOperationsSupervisors@ambulance.qld.gov.au>  
**Date:** 6 September 2014 12:35:22 am AEST  
**To:** Michael Metcalfe [redacted]  
**Subject:** Major Incident Charleville

Good Evening

Charleville Truck Rollover and subsequent explosion multiple patients  
[http://earreports/perc/APEX\\_UTILIS.perc\\_open\\_image\\_direct.get\\_image?t incident=05752897](http://earreports/perc/APEX_UTILIS.perc_open_image_direct.get_image?t incident=05752897)

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Regards,

Peter



A/Senior Operations Supervisor- Darling Downs Local

**Ambulance Service Network**

| Queensland Ambulance Service | Department of Health |



166-168 Herries Street Toowoomba, QLD 4350 | PO Box 7, Toowoomba, QLD 4350 |

P:  F: (07) 46327 870 | [qasr3opssuper@ambulance.qld.gov.au](mailto:qasr3opssuper@ambulance.qld.gov.au) |

RTI Release

## Lisa Batt

---

**From:** Russell Cooke  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 1:09 AM  
**To:** Michael Metcalfe  
**Cc:** QAS Media  
**Subject:** Fwd: Charleville Incident

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Filing

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**Subject: Charleville Incident**

Incident Number 5752897

Code 1C response to a possible truck fire, caller unable to confirm, all other details unknown - 30kms south of Charleville on Mitchell Highway

21:28 Call received by QFES  
21:53 Call in QAS incident waiting queue  
21:54 B3143 Charleville Dispatched  
21:58 B3148 Charleville Enroute  
22:23 B3143 Charleville On Scene  
22:45 B3401 Charleville Dispatched  
22:46 B3401 Charleville Enroute  
22:55 B3247 Cunnamulla Dispatched  
23:03 B3247 Cunnamulla Enroute  
23:06 B3401 Charleville On Scene  
23:09 B3143 transported 3 yellow – 3 green transported by QPS  
23:42 B3143 destination  
24:00 B3427 Stood Down  
24:03 B3401 Transporting 1 x Red  
24:36 B3401 Destination

- Truck roll over, cargo believed to be ammonium nitrate
- Delay in activation of QAS from QFES
- QFES first on scene
- Explosions reported on scene, Responding QAS Unit witnessed explosions from approximately 15kms.
- Additional unit from Charleville and Cunnamulla activated due to information regarding number of QFES staff injured
- Executive Manager contacted TOC to provide advice for scene management;

- OIC to be nominated scene commander
- Contingency plan to be activated for Charleville due to all available QAS resources attached to case
- Off duty resource activated for Cunnamulla to provide coverage if available, otherwise activate Contingency Plan
- 1 x QFES appliance involved in the explosions and 1 x QPS vehicle both extensively damage
- QPS staged QAS 5kms from scene
- QPS transported 6 x pts to the staged area
- Initial assessment (SORT) 4 x Green and 2 x Yellow,
- ? 1 x Deceased still at scene
- Notification of incident to QCC – 2 RFDS fixed wing resources activated
- (SIEVE) 6 [redacted] pts 3x Yellow and 3 x Green - QAS transported 3 x Yellow and QPS transported 4 x green to Charleville Base Hospital
  - 1 [redacted] multiple hand fractures hip injuries and lacerations,
  - 1 [redacted] blast injuries
  - [redacted] blast injuries ALOC,
  - [redacted] blast injuries ALOC,
  - [redacted] blast injuries ALOC,
  - [redacted] upper arm injury was in vehicle reversing out of incident at time of explosion
  - 1 [redacted] minor injuries
- OIC now attending scene – Treating 1 x [redacted] Pt severe burns [redacted] transporting to Charleville Base
- Cunnamulla stood down - Nil other pts
- QFES have requested QAS attend scene for standby presence
- At this stage 2 pt's to be flown out

Thanks

Russell Cooke

RTI Release

## Elizabeth Santillan

---

**From:** Stephen Johns  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 September 2014 7:21 AM  
**To:** Peter Wood; Russell Cooke  
**Subject:** Charleville incident truck fire . QFES officers injured

OCM Briefing Summary to AC State OpCens

STATE OPERATION CENTRES  
SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT NOTIFICATION  
"DOT POINT" SUMMARY REPORT – REF No. IN20140509 Charleville

OPERATIONS CENTRE: Toowoomba Operations Centre  
Incident Location/Address: Mitchell Highway 30kms south of Charleville  
Date of Incident: 5th September 2014  
CAD Incident Number:05752897  
CAD Determinant/Description:QAS Required – Truck on fire  
Response Code: Code 1C

The Toowoomba Operations Centre received a request from the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to attend a truck fire approximately 30 Kms South of Charleville.

The QFES arrived on scene and identified a truck that had crashed off a bridge into a river bank and was on fire. The driver of the truck was out of the vehicle. The truck was on fire and carrying ammonium nitrate.

QAS units identified 2 x large explosions from the scene as they were responding and they and QPS held off from approaching. 3 x further explosions scene and heard.

The explosions were felt in Charleville with a number of windows broken as a result.

Reports from the scene identified a number of QFES officers had been injured and the fire truck had been damaged. QPS also advise they have had a vehicle damaged in the explosions.

8 x patients transported to Charleville Hospital.  x QFES Officers,  x QPS Officer,  x bystanders and the truck driver.

1. Reason for Notification



- For information.
2. Patient Outcome
    - Total of 7 patients transported to Charleville Hospital with various injuries.
  
  - 3.
  4. Was there a Delay because of an error?
    - No.
  
  5. Timeline of What Happened?
    - 2153 hrs Call received from QFES FireCom for possible truck on fire – caller unable to confirm – all other details unknown.
    - 2154 hrs Charleville Units 3143 and 3250 dispatched to meet and proceed to scene in Unit 3143.
    - 2156 hrs QFES advise verbally truck rollover carrying ammonia nitrate requiring Code 1.
    - 2158 hrs Charleville Unit 3143 en route to scene.
    - 2203 hrs QFES on scene- truck fully involved – driven off bridge into river 30kms from Charleville – 1  occupant out of vehicle – QFES treating patient at this time.
    - 2220 hrs Charleville Unit 3143 advise they are approximately 1 km away from scene and have seen 1-2 large explosions from scene – have now met up with QPS.
    - 2223 hrs Charleville Unit 3143 at QPS request have held back from scene as windows have been exploded from incident.
    - 2223 hrs QPS Charleville advise 3 further explosions have been reported – 1 QPS vehicle has been involved in explosions – nil QPS officer injured – explosions felt in Charleville.
    - 2229 hrs OCS contacted OIC Charleville for availability to assist with incident.
    - 2230 hrs OCS Toowoomba conferenced with Clinical Co-ordinator.
    - 2239 hrs Unit 3143 just advised by QFES – believed they were on bridge when the explosion happened ? 2 deceased.
    - 2245 hrs Unit 3143 request 3rd officer Code 1 as multiple fire officers involved in incident.
    - 2245 hrs Unit 3401 dispatched to scene.
    - 2250 hrs QPS advise a QFES unit has been blown apart – multiple casualties.
    - 2250 hrs 3143 advise 4 green, 2 yellow patients all QFES officers.
    - 2252 hrs Charleville hospital advised
    - 2252 hrs QFES advise  QFES officer injured in incident.
    - 2255 hrs Cunnamulla unit 3247 dispatched.
    - 2329 hrs Unit 3143 advise transporting 2 yellow and 1 green patient – QPS transporting 3 green.
    - 2354 hrs Unit 3143 advises of patient injuries (as per incident report)
    - 2356 hrs Unit 3401 arrived on scene of incident and attending to one patient.
    - 2359 hrs Cunnamulla Unit 3247 advised to stand down and return to Cunnamulla.
    - 0003 hrs Unit 3401 transporting one patient to Charleville Hospital
    - 0017hrs QFES request QAS respond back to scene as per senior QFES request.
    - 0036 hrs Unit 3401 arrived at Charleville Hospital.
    - 0055 hrs QAS released from scene.
  
  6. Findings:
    - Communication issues, in particular mobile phones, satellite phones and unit radio
  
  7. Officers Involved & Immediate Action Taken:

- John Gilbert, Liam Walsh, Michael Hadj, Jesse Cool, Dea Carroll, Brenda Walker, Peter Crooks
8. Further Action Required/Recommended:
- Nil

**Regards**

**Stephen**

**Acting Superintendent Stephen Johns**

**Manager Toowoomba Operations Centre**

**I Queensland Ambulance Service I Department of Health I**

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## Executive Briefing Note

**Requested by:** Russell Cooke, Executive Manager, Qld Ambulance Service

**Critical**       **Urgent**       **General**

Ref: MinCor/Recfind #

**CSD**     **EMQ**     **QAS**     **QCS**     **QFRS**     **SPD**

**Briefing note for approval**                      **Briefing note for information**

**To:** Russell Cooke, Executive Manager, South West LASN

**Subject:** Case 5752897

**Date:** 06/09/2014

### 1. Background

A truck roll over incident turned into a multi-casualty situation after the contents of the vehicle exploded.

### 2. Case Details

On Friday 05<sup>th</sup> September 2014 about 2153hr, Toowoomba Comms received a call advising that a possible truck fire located about 40km south of Charleville on the Mitchell Highway. Both on call officers were dispatched with further information that it was a truck rollover and that the vehicle was carrying ammonium nitrite (Code 1 response). Officers responded to incident in Unit 3143 and were stopped several kilometres from crash site by QPS and prevented from entering site. QFES were on scene and advised that they had one patient and were administering first aid. A short time later two loud explosions were witnessed & heard by Unit 3143 and a shock wave was felt in Charleville.

Within that blast zone were the  QFES members,  x QPS member and  civilians. About this time I was contacted and asked to cover the town. All but two patients were transported from the scene and brought back to the staging area for treatment by QPS. At this time the crew ascertained they had 4 green and 2 yellows based on the patients they had and information they received. The  had not presented  to the crew and instead self-presented to Charleville Hospital. The crew were unsure of condition of the remaining patients.

The crew requested Code 1 assistance and I responded in Unit 3401. Upon my arrival I quickly ascertained numbers and directed Unit 3143 to load the 2 yellows and 1 green and proceed to hospital. The remaining 2 green were being assisted by QPS and transported in a convoy behind Unit 3143. I relayed this information back to QAS Comms.

QPS advised that there were two patients and that one was in serious condition still at the initial incident location. With a QPS escort I entered the zone and triage a category yellow and a red. The category yellow Pt was removed from the scene and driven directly to hospital by QPS.

The remaining Pt was treated and with assistance from QPS driven to Charleville Hospital.

All staff then assisted hospital staff with patients, completed their case notes, retrieved careflight officers and RFDS members and eventually transported four of the eight patients to the airport.

### 3. Issues

It was unclear as to how many patients there actually were. This confusion was caused by a number of factors such as not being able to access the scene, misinformation as to exactly how many were involved, communication difficulties associated with loss of radio and telephone communications and by a [redacted] not presenting [redacted] to QAS.

Communication black spots made it difficult to relay information and provide proper sitreps. This was further enhanced when no satellite signal was received either.

Charleville was left without coverage whilst all available members were at the scene. Although the hospital was advised that they may need to respond to cases during our absence, they themselves were activating their contingency plan in order to deal with the situation.

Charleville Hospital is small in nature and all available resources were called in and handled the situation well.

Charleville crew were at the minimum as staff were on RDOs or at sport specials, this reduced our availability to provide normal operational duties and the multi-casualty situation. A prolonged engagement would have created fatigue issues.

### 4. Recommendation

That you note this brief.

- That should officers respond to a suspected multi-casualty scene in the future that they respond in the double stretcher unit if applicable to increase availability of patient transport.
- That Toowoomba Comms be commended for their excellent efforts during this situation.
- That both Officer Walsh and Gilbert be commended for their excellent triage, treatment, transport and follow ups.

Michael Hadj  
OFFICER IN CHARGE  
QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

Russell Cooke  
EXECUTIVE MANAGER  
QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

05/09/2014

/ /

Noted / Approved / Not Approved

Comments:

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