

# Notified incidents

## 31 July 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 56 incidents, serious enough to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria, from the construction, utility, quarrying and mining industries. Below is a summary of these incidents.

Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
<b>17 July</b>		
Mornington	Puncture wound to left thigh	Sub contractor was using a nail gun when it mis-fired. Worker was struck in the left leg, lower thigh approx 2 cms above knee cap with the 3 inch nail.
Heidelberg	Hand puncture	Worker, 19, worker shooting nails into timber and his left hand was too close to the gun and he shot a nail into his palm.
Carlton	Near miss	Boom lift on hire descended slowly with painter inside the bucket. The boom came to rest on the panel which is part of the building being constructed. Height of descent unknown. No injuries.
Inverloch	Lost consciousness	Elderly member of the public tripped over barricade tape around a water main works site. Struck head on ground and lost consciousness.
Alfredton	Fractured foot	Apprentice walking out door way step on crushed concrete rolling ankle resulting foot fracture.
Werribee	Near miss	Electrical contractor was using an auger to drill a hole for footing for camera pole, they dug outside their permitted area (didn't do dial-before-you-dig). Made contact with a high voltage feed. Hit conduit and stopped, change in pitch of noise.
Officer	Abdominal injuries, pins and needles to his feet	Contractor, 24, had been washing the concrete truck chute as they had finished pouring the concrete. He was standing between the truck and skip, the truck reversed crushing him against a skip. Suffered abdominal injuries, pins and needles to his feet.
Melbourne	Near miss	Embankment of clay/material approx 5 metres in length slide into an excavation which is 4 metres deep. Workers were in the raft/excavation at the time.
<b>18 July</b>		
Mount Helen	Fractured Rib	Employee, 66, was carrying timber down an embankment when he slipped backwards and landed on an old side entry pit.
Clayton	Near miss	Crane was carrying two squares of glass laminated together with a weight of 288 kg. The suction let loose and glass fell. Fell from a height of approx 1 metre. There were workers in the immediate vicinity.
Mentone	Laceration and crush injuries to middle finger on right hand	Contractor was hammer drilling into brickwork, the drill jammed and twisted around, his finger was crushed between the scaffold and the drill, he receiving a laceration to his middle finger on right hand. Amputation may be required to the first knuckle closer to the top of his finger.
North Balwyn	Fractured tibia	Worker, 79, was coming down a ladder, close to ground approx 1m ladder disengaged and fell on the ground.

Puckapanyal	Electric shock	Employee was resetting a tripped electrical board and received a zap and had chest Pain and tingling in arm
<b>19 July</b>		
Heidelberg	Eye injury	Contractor, 23, was cutting piece of pipe with pipe cutting pliers, the longer piece of cut pipe has flicked up knocking his glasses back causing the pipe to come in contact with his right eye.
Swan Hill	Near miss	Two contractors and four staff members were working on a pipe line at the pumping station, during the sandblasting process a substance was dislodged under the paint.
Canterbury	Lacerations to the forearm	Worker was using an angle and it gripped and spun into the lower part of his right forearm.
Highett	Near miss	During concrete pour the shutter at the side gave way and concrete slurry has fallen from level 1 to ground level.
Tallorn	Laceration left shin	Mechanic, working on pump, slipped over, hit shin on wood, cut l shin. Stitches required.
Bentleigh East	Crushed toes	Employee, 23, had 2 or 3 toes crushed on a foot when a 150 kg steel road plate slipped and landed on his foot from about 6 inches off the ground. The plate fell after a "d" shackle broke.
Wye River	Laceration to palm	Apprentice was working with another employee, who was cutting a piece of paper with a knife, the apprentice's hand was in the way and he has received a laceration to his palm. 25 stitches required.
Kilsyth	Laceration between thumb and index finger on right hand	Grinder kicked back while cutting into a pool fence gate and hurt workers hand. Surgery may be required for tendon damage.
Cranbourne North	Near miss	Employee probing for water tapping when they nicked the gas service with the probe resulting in a gas leak.
Lower Plenty	Near miss	Ceiling bracket dislodged in the upper story and due to excessive water and a leak in the tarp the bracket fell through the wet plaster onto the kitchen bench top.
Officer	Fractured ankle	Employee, 22, slipped and fell off a ladder while putting in a light fixture in a bedroom of a domestic construction site. He received a fractured ankle.

<b>20 July</b>		
McArthur	Unconscious - head injury - leg numbness	Male electrician working on a wind turbine installing cables when cable hit him in the head knocking him unconscious. Worker fell and is now hanging from windmill in the harness. Is awake now but is reporting head/leg injuries.
Clayton South	Back injury	Worker struck by a forklift sustaining serious back injuries.
Lower Templestowe	Left wrist injury	Worker climbed up extension ladder and base of ladder slipped out, causing ladder to fall from the house. Fell and possible sprained/broken left wrist. Ladder was not footed properly and it was slippery wet weather.

Mount Helen	Near miss	Materials hoist (1500 zzt - 1505-219) on site was loaded up with air conditioning ductwork. The hoist has two front gates that are shorter than the gates on the side of the hoist. The mh was slightly overloaded and when it was in operation the ductwork shifted and moved forward towards the building, making connection with the gates on that level (1) lifting them off their hinge pins. The gates have dropped into the building. Work was stopped. The gates were lifted back onto their pins. The machine was shut down until supplier checked the machine over. Scaffold clips were installed on all the gates to prevent them from lifting in the future.
East Brunswick	Tendon tear of index finger right hand	Nail gun, slipped causing the prongs on the nail gun to lift the nail of the worker's index finger off and tearing the tendon to t.
Sunshine	Near miss	Damage to a residential gas service by back hoe bucket, while relaying pipe. Located gas by hand dig but was one that was capped and out of service. So backhoe dug the rest of trench & hit gas pipe in use no injuries
Melbourne	Near miss	Concrete pump had line blockage when it blew out wet concrete poured over three workers. Injuries did not require medical treatment.
Waurm ponds	Laceration to left wrist.	Contractor, 63, was installing garage roller door. A bracket slipped, the roller door slipped, he caught it and received a cut to wrist. Stitches required.
Hamilton	Electric shock	Contractor was turning on a vacuum pump, running on 240 volt power supply, and felt a tingle in his fingers.
<b>July 23</b>		
Campbellfield	Facial burns	Male employee received facial burns from an exploding aerosol.
Melbourne	Near miss	Two employees were working in a 45 foot knuckle boom (all terrain) at full reach on site. Supervisor onsite used the controls on the ground to release the lower knuckle down in a straight position as he noticed that the bucket was close to overhanging wires. (3 spotters on site). The basket then got caught on four bolts on the upper knuckle. (The machine has got caught on itself) The supervisor then attempted to get the booms bucket down to the ground. Oil pressure was then reduced in the ram via the controls, but the machine did not respond as it was being held in position by the stuck bolts. When the bolts released the bucket from the position, the bucket dropped about 2 meters as oil pressure had previously been released from the ram. The apprentice was flung out of the basket and sustained minor strains. The licenced operator sustained minor injuries to his right hand. No reportable injuries sustained.
Moorabbin	Electric shock	47 year old male employee received an electric shock while flicking a switch on an electrical fuse box. The fuse cover fell off contributing to the shock. Employee taken to Sandringham hospital for a check up. Electric box has been removed for a replacement.
<b>July 24</b>		
Maribyrnong	Near miss	Excavator was being used on a site located on a hill, as the excavator was coming down a spoil it has tipped over due to the angle.
Heyfield	Crushed finger	Male worker was straightening a flitch on a chain and placed the flitch on top of his finger. Surgery required.
Waubra	Near miss	A lunchbox and thermos flask weighing approx 2-3 kg's fell from around 20 metres inside a turbine. Nobody in the vicinity at the time so no injuries.

Niddrie	Lacerated leg	Male leading hand walking on vacant house block, slipped and struck leg on uncapped star pickett. Laceration to leg, needing stitches.
Canadian	Laceration to little finger of left hand.	Male, 60, moving a truss had his hand caught in nail plate cutting little finger of left hand requiring 9 stitches.
<b>July 25</b>		
Derrimut	Suspected fracture of right ankle.	Employee, 26, was installing roof trusses. Standing on an external roof plate. The plate gave way; he lost balance and jumped off at an approx height of 2.4 metres.
Sunshine	Near miss	Contractor driver was reversing a two cubic metre load of fill to tip. The tray became detached and fell as it was being raised.
Box Hill	Near miss	Whilst performing trenching works, approx 800mm to 1 meter deep, an excavator came into contact with a gas line, causing it to rupture and leak gas. The size of the natural gas line is unknown at this stage.
Orbost	Fractured hand	Male employee tripped over a concrete island and has fallen, resulting in a fracture in the left hand.
Southbank	Fracture to left ankle.	Employee was climbing down steps of EWP backwards after parking unit. Has miss judged steps and fallen onto platform of EWP part way down.
<b>July 26</b>		
Tullamarine	Laceration upper leg	Labourer was using a knife to cut the end of a silicone tube, knife slipped hitting leg. Surgery required.
Beechworth	Lacerated head requiring 4 stitches	Employee, 22, was struck in the head by a single brick after small brick wall collapsed at an old church. He received a lacerated head requiring 4 stitches. He was not wearing a helmet.
Airport West	Mild electric shock	Worker was running cable in roof cavity and touched a metal bracket and fire sprinkler pipe at the same time and received a mild electric shock.
North Carlton	Electric shock to right hand	Employee received an electric shock to his right hand while doing some electrical work at domestic premises. He was connecting a sensor and the rcd did not kick in to prevent the shock.
Surrey Hills	Fracture to rib	Male contracted employee (age not known) working on the roof fixing gutter on a higher roof he sat on the corner of the sky light and the skylight collapsed and he fell through to the floor below 3 metres. Resulting in cracked rib.
<b>27 July</b>		
Craigieburn	Cuts and bruises	Bricks being loaded onto the roof of a garage this in turn has collapsed. Four workers have sustained injuries
Malvern east	Laceration to left thumb.	Apprentice, 19, was unloading a work van. A piece of copper pipe fell down and struck his thumb causing a laceration. Stitches required.
Whittlesea	Amputated tip of (unknown) finger	Male employee, 53, was loading or unloading an EWP, and has amputated the tip of one of his fingers.
Cardinia	Near miss	Tipper truck had its trailer extended up and was holding crushed rock, when it tipped over, due to the ground underneath sliding.
Campbellfield	Near miss	Employees were driving the jet truck (which is done to conduct excavations using high powered water) along the Eastlink Freeway, when they heard a loud explosion, which caused them to pull over, to discover that the engine was on fire.