

Reported incidents

24/04/2014 to 07/05/2014

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 54 incidents, serious enough to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria, from the construction, utility, quarrying and mining industries.

Below is a summary of these incidents.

Date	Location	Injury description	Incident summary
24 April	MELBOURNE	Burns	Plumber was changing a pump and hoses in a storm water sump when hot water came through a hose and burnt his arm and stomach.
24 April	MELBOURNE	Laceration	Employee was carrying a shelving unity when he tripped and the unit landed on his finger.
24 April	CRAIGIEBURN	Amputation	Employee was installing a security fence using a star picket driver when his hand struck the star picket.
28 April	MORNINGTON PENINSULA	Laceration	Male was working in a sewer and a splinter from a concrete pipe went into his finger.
28 April	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Building materials (bolt 15mm x 80 mm, wedge from a balcony) fell around 30 floors off a tower building site.
28 April	WAURN PONDS	Near miss	An employee was using an EWP to retrieve tools from a roof when the EWP basket dropped about two metres.
29 April	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Damage was caused to a residential gas service during water main works.
29 April	CRANBOURNE	Laceration	Painting contractor was grinding paint off a fence when he hit a nail and the grinder jumped back and struck his hand.
29 April	CRANBOURNE	Laceration	An employee was cutting tin on a range hood with an angle grinder when the disc exploded and he was struck in the right shin.
29 April	FERNTREE GULLY	Laceration, bruising	Apprentice plumber was lifting a concrete pit lid when it fell onto his fingers.
29 April	PRESTON	Near miss	During the packing up of a hammer-head tower crane, some wire rope retracted too quickly and caused a cable to snap. The cable and hook block then fell five floors.
29 April	MELBOURNE	Near miss	A building was in the process of being demolished when a piece of rubble fell from the seventh floor to the ground.
29 April	MELBOURNE	Unknown	A bird spike weighing approximately one hundred grams fell about five levels from a building next door and struck a worker in the head.

Reported incidents

29 April	MERNDA	Fracture	Employee was working beside a shallow trench when the edge gave way and he fell about one metre, getting his foot stuck between a trench pipe and wall.
30 April	KEW	Laceration	A cabinet fell and cut a carpenter's leg.
30 April	MELBOURNE	Near miss	A bolt from a pin rack on a man and materials hoist came loose and fell out.
30 April	MELBOURNE	Near miss	A forklift knocked some glass doors that it had been removing from a delivery truck.
30 April	MELBOURNE	Near miss	A fall protection gate on a man and materials hoist came off and was suspended in the air at level 13.
30 April	GEELONG	Laceration	Contractor lacerated his hand when he hopped down from a joist and grabbed a sharp object.
1 May	MORNINGTON PENINSULA	Near miss	Employee was directional drilling when the drill went through an underground low voltage cable to a house.
1 May	HAMPTON	Eye injury	Employee was in the process of assisting with a renewal of a cable between poles. As the lashing cable was being removed it caught on a tree, let go and flung back.
1 May	DANDENONG	Laceration	Contractor was glazing a window and putting some rubber in, when he sliced the tip of his second finger on the edge of the glass.
1 May	DANDENONG	Unknown	Employees using an EWP to work on a telecommunications tower when an antenna bracket fell about twenty metres to the ground, hitting a man on the helmet.
1 May	CHIRNSIDE PARK	Fracture	Employee was three or four rungs up a ladder when the ladder slipped on wet concrete and the employee fell approximately one metre to the ground.
1 May	CRAIGIEBURN	Fracture	Employee was rolling out some pipes that were on a skipsteer when a rope that was holding the pipes together broke. One of the pipes struck the employee in the nose.
1 May	BENDIGO	Laceration	Employee was using a saw when his hand slipped and he lacerated his finger.
1 May	BALLARAT	Laceration	Employee was using a power saw with a guard when it slipped and cut his fingers.
2 May	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Employees were operating a man and materials hoist, when the steel guide wheel and bolt sheared off, dropping six levels to the ground.
2 May	LILYDALE	Near miss	House was raised on jacks for re-stumping activities when

Reported incidents

			it partially collapsed and ruptured a gas main/meter.
2 May	HASTINGS	Fracture	Employee was putting up trusses using a stepladder when he stepped onto a timber brace which was not supported properly and gave way. He fell about a metre and a half, landing on his arm/hand.
2 May	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Employee was preparing to lift a mesh screen and was undoing the last prop when the screen fell forward approximately four metres, landing against a hand rail.
2 May	WHITTLESEA	Multiple stings	Employee on a bobcat, getting a load of topsoil when he disturbed a wasp nest and was stung up to twenty times.
2 May	MELBOURNE	Head injury	Employee was struck by a piece of timber that fell from above.
5 May	YALLOURN	Electric shock	Employee was cutting a steel plate with a grinder when he received an electric shock. Grinder may have been faulty.
5 May	KEYSBOROUGH	Fracture	Employee was standing on a concrete service pit's lid and was thrown off, falling about two metres into the pit after an excavator nibbed the lid with its bucket.
5 May	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Employee fell into an open manhole approximately one and a half metres deep, left by plumbers working on site.
5 May	FOOTSCRAY	Multiple fractures	Truck reversed onto a work site and struck an employee.
5 May	EPPING	Near miss	Skipsteer operator was loading the machine onto the trailer when it slipped to the left, hitting the ramp, breaking the winch (connected to bobcat) and winch pole.
5 May	SHEPPARTON	Chemical burns	Two employees wearing PPE were repairing a sewer pit when some chemicals were released (possibly a caustic or chloride substance) into the sewer.
5 May	GEELONG	Near miss	Excavator boom contacted and broke an overhead cable.
6 May	MELBOURNE	Crush	Rigger crushed his finger while positioning a concrete panel between two other panels.
6 May	NOBLE PARK	Laceration	Electrician cut his hand while using a ball press.
6 May	MALVERN	Puncture	Contractor was installing edge form when he accidentally shot a nail from a nail gun through his foot.
6 May	HALLAM	Bruising	Employee was struck by a piece of steel, injuring his ankle.
6 May	MELBOURNE	Electric shock	Employee received an electric shock to his hand while plugging a lead into a temporary board on site.

Reported incidents

6 May	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Employees were working in a boom lift on level four when a 16ml washer fell from the basket, hit the overhead protection gantry and landed on the road.
6 May	GEELONG	Laceration	Apprentice was replacing an air-conditioning fan motor, and caught his finger between the fan motor and bracket.
6 May	CASTLEMAINE	Near miss	An underground cast iron pipe was found and assumed to be an old unused water main. Employees cut through it with an oxyacetylene torch, cutting the gas pipe that was actually inside, and it caught alight.
7 May	MELBOURNE	Electric shock	Sub-contractor received an electric shock when he touched uncovered wires while installing block work.
7 May	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Employees were digging a hole to install a new water service when the backhoe hit an underground gas service, releasing gas.
7 May	BURNSIDE	Near miss	A low pressure gas line was pierced during some excavation work.
7 May	WERRIBEE	Near miss	An eight tonne excavator conducting earthworks contacted a 25mm Polypipe gas service.
7 May	TULLAMARINE	Laceration	Employees were trying to remove an electrical pit lid, when the handle of a sledge hammer being used broke off and hit a contractor in the face.

Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
6 May	MINE	Laceration	Employee was using an extendable paint pole to paint a tunnel face when he knocked a rock that was about half the size of a golf ball. It fell approximately four metres and struck him on the chin.