

Reported incidents

27 August 2013

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox there have been 34 incidents serious enough to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria from the construction, utility, quarrying and mining industries. Below is a summary of these.

Date	Location	Injury description	Incident summary
August 9	Melbourne	Laceration to three fingers	Male employee was replacing a urinal when it slipped off and shattered on the floor; he tried to catch it but cut his fingers.
August 9	Cambellfield	Laceration to left hand	Male employee was assisting another employee, who was using an automated saw, to remove off-cuts when his gloves got caught in the blade.
August 12	Morwell	Flash burns to the face and arm	Electrician received flash burns to his face and arm when a wire made contact with the live switchboard he was working on.
August 12	Cranbourne South	Two leg fractures	An employee was stepping down from the back of a truck during maintenance works when he slipped on uneven ground.
August 12	Caulfield	Fractured right elbow	Employee was taking measurements of a building from a rear laneway when he lost his balance and fell.
August 12	Brighton	Near miss	A piece of plywood sheet blew off the third floor of a building; employees were in the vicinity at the time but no-one was injured.
August 12	Bayswater	Laceration to left hand	Labor hire employee was carrying out material handling work when he cut his hand on a sharp edge.
August 12	Tullamarine	Concussion	A sub-contracted plasterer was stepping into a plunge pool when he slipped and knocked his head.
August 12	Epping	Broken and lacerated finger	Sub-contractor struck his finger with a hammer during stressing work of a PT slab.
August 12	Parkville	Near miss	A 7-tonne column fell 200mm to the ground when the lifting clutch let go (possibly from not being attached correctly) of a tower crane; no-one was injured.
August 12	Cambellfield	Laceration to top of left hand index finger	Employee was checking the dust extraction at the rear of a drop saw when he put his finger into the rear of the unit and a fan assembly injured his finger.
August 12	Melbourne	Near miss	During high wind a 14m screen became dislodged and fell onto the top level of the building, which had to be evacuated.
August 12	Truganina		Plasterboard wall between two units at town house

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			development site blew over because of high wind.
August 12	Warrnambool	Possible fractured arm	Timber hoarding (30m long) blew over and struck a member of the public walking past.
August 13	Dandenong South	Crush related injuries	15 sheets of reo mesh fell out of reclined rack of mesh onto employee.
August 13	Northcote	Near miss	Solar panels (placed on the roof of a town house unit ready to be attached to the roof) blew off due to high winds, landing on the balcony of another unit.
August 13	Armstrong Creek	Back injury	Employee fell approximately 2.5m to the ground when a void platform gave way.
August 14	Melton	Seizure	Contractor was standing at ground level and laying bricks when he suffered a seizure and fell backwards.
August 14	Melbourne	Lacerated arm	Employee was carrying steel on his shoulder when he dropped it, cutting his left arm.
August 15	Keilor	Small gash to back of head	Sub-contractor was operating an excavator on site and was travelling along uneven ground when it tipped over.
August 15	Waurm Ponds	Near miss	Bucket of 20t excavator hit a temporary underground power line (located 600mm); no-one was injured.
August 15	Melbourne	Pierce wound requiring two stitches	Apprentice was exiting a scissor lift when long nose pliers in his side pocket pierced his right hip.
August 15	Elwood	Broken arm and possible head injury	Plumber fell from a height (unknown at time, but was working from a two-story ladder).
August 16	Morwell	Electric shock	Sub-contractor was installing a new bin chipper when he received an electric shock.
August 16	Melbourne	Electric shock	Employee picked up an electric drill on site and sustained an electrical shock.
August 19	Clayton	Serious laceration to finger on left hand	Employee was using a miter saw and he popped his hand near the saw blade, catching it on his finger.
August 19	Melbourne	Fractured right arm	Employees were packing up tools and placing them into a gang box when a gust of wind caused the lid to close - this resulted in the lid of the gang box striking the arm of the injured employee while his arm was inside the gang box.
August 20	Melton	Laceration	Apprentice was nailing batons onto a roof when he

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		to thumb	shot a nail into his thumb.
August 21	Cockram	Laceration to left index finger	A plumber was using a screwdriver to remove a cover plate on a valve and slipped, resulting in a cut finger, requiring stitches.
August 21	Broadmeadows	Fractured coccyx	Employee was climbing up a ladder and slipped approximately 1.5m to the ground and landed on his buttocks.
August 21	Ringwood	Electric shock	Contractor received a minor shock to his left hand while removing a drill battery charger from temporary power board.
August 22	Carlton	Broken index finger (left hand)	Employee was handling a piece of 4x3 timber when it dropped from supported position and landed on his index finger.

Mining

Date	Location	Injury description	Incident summary
August 12	Ouyen	Electric shock	Employee was using the pressure washer in the process plant; when he picked it up to move it, he felt tingling in his feet/legs.
August 20	Kangaroo Flat	Laceration to right hand	Employee was removing some barb wire from a fence line when he cut himself, requiring six stitches to the back of his right hand.