

Reported incidents

19 December 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 81 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
Dec 3	Mildura	Lacerated right hand	Subcontractor operating an elevated work platform jammed his right hand between frame and EWP.
Dec 3	Craigieburn	Near miss	Scissor lift motor caught fire whilst two workers were working at an elevated height of about 6m.
Dec 3	Melbourne	Fractured right knee	Employee doing isolation work on an emergency light when six plaster sheets fell down and landed on him.
Dec 4	Balwyn	Fractured right wrist	Employee slid off plank and put hand out to stop fall.
Dec 4	Clayton	Crushed left leg	Concrete slab delivered to site and when driver removed the second support using his arm to lift slab, a gust of wind caused it to fall onto his left leg.
Dec 4	Bentleigh	Near miss	Repair to a burst water main required an excavator to remove sand but as it was being cleared the roadway partially collapsed and the excavator tipped into a hole approximately 50cm deep.
Dec 4	Heidelberg	Lacerated right forearm	Employee removing wall tiles when one fell and struck his arm.
Dec 4	Strathmore	Near miss	Employee was directional drilling underground on the nature strip when he hit and damaged a power cable between the pit and the power pole.
Dec 4	Geelong	Near miss	Subcontractor using excavator nicked top of conduit for a high voltage power conduit.
Dec 5	Hawthorn	Near miss	An empty bin was being guided down onto a road by a luffing crane when the bin swung out and the chain made contact with a live overhead tram line.
Dec 5	Warrigal	Fractured left wrist	Plasterer on step ladder was scraping an external angle when he fell and landed on his left wrist.
Dec 5	Mentone	Lacerated calf	Carpenter placing battens to front entry of unit and cut his leg on a letterbox bracket.
Dec 5	Frankston	Lacerated right forearm	Earthmoving contractor lifting piece of reinforcement steel caught it on his sleeve and cut his arm.
Dec 5	Balwyn	Lacerated right leg	Employee cutting timber with circular saw when it jammed, kicked back and hit his leg.
Dec 5	Deer Park	Fractured C2 neck bone	Employee on the roof when rain began and as descending ladder he missed a step and fell 2-2.5m onto a platform.
Dec 5	Melbourne	Lacerated left fingers	Employee using cordless angle grinder, slipped.
Dec 5	Thomastown	Unknown	Crane rolled with operator inside.
Dec 5	Shepparton	Fractured right finger	Employee hooking trailer to vehicle and jammed his ring finger on his right hand between the trailer hitch and vehicle hitch.

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Dec 5	Geelong	Electric shock	Employee received shock when fish hook wire he was using to pass an electrical cable through pilot hole, came into contact with a livewire.
Dec 6	Mornington	Puncture to right foot, infection	Nail was stepped on and it penetrated safety boot.
Dec 6	Hampton	Lacerated right index finger	Employee cutting vertical boards using an angle grinder which snagged and kicked back.
Dec 6	Laverton	Lacerated right forearm	Employee was cut whilst removing a star picket that was blocking his path.
Dec 6	St Kilda	Dislocated hip, chipped hip bones	Employee taking roof tiles off when he fell against the guardrail which gave way and he fell off the single-storey roof.
Dec 6	Geelong	Lacerated right hand	Employee nicked hand on the end of the FSC unit while placing it on the ground.
Dec 7	Carnegie	Near miss	Piece of steel flashing (approximately 3m x 250mm) fell from first floor scaffold into neighbouring property after strong winds.
Dec 7	Dandenong	Lacerated middle right finger	Employee manually maneuvering 180kg beam on top of another beam and crushed his finger between them.
Dec 7	Wheelers Hill	Broken toe	Subcontractor stubbed his big toe on formwork.
Dec 7	Springvale	Lacerated left ring finger	Employee put his finger on a DPU cage when a backhoe bucket slipped and caught the end of his finger.
Dec 7	Traralgon	Near miss	Employee welding on scaffolding when a 20cm g-clamp became loose from rattling and fell through a hole (where the scaffolding was to go) to level below (3m fall height) where two workers were.
Dec 7	Traralgon	Electric shock	Employee received an electric shock from 240v temporary lighting.
Dec 7	Tullamarine	Lacerated left hand and little finger	Employee operating a radial arm saw and as he retrieved a piece of material he injured his hand.
Dec 7	Kilmore	Near miss	Hire crane boom extended too far and crane overturned. Operator jumped out of cabin.
Dec 7	Southbank	Near miss	Steel bracket used for window installation was being put into place on level 19 and while lanyard was being removed, bracket slipped from employee's hand and bounced over edge falling 17 floors, landed on the roof next door penetrating roof sheeting and stopping inside the roof cavity.
Dec 7	Melbourne	Lacerated thumb	Employee slipped while cutting a pipe with a saw.
Dec 7	Geelong	Lacerated middle left finger	Employee extending a man hole caught his finger between components.
Dec 7	Ballarat	Lacerated finger	Employee picking up a truss when a nail plate cut his finger.
Dec 7	Bendigo	Lacerated	Employee was running hand up a wall when she got a

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		finger	splinter underneath a fingernail.
Dec 10	Burwood	Lacerated hand	Carpenter using circular power-saw that jammed and kicked back.
Dec 10	Dandenong	Near miss	Access scaffold platform (either the first platform walk on or last platform you walk off) fell approximately 500mm to the ground with employee on it. There was a crack in the weld section holding the scaffold platform in place.
Dec 10	Armadale	Near miss	Brick wall section (approximately 4m x 4m) collapsed and knocked over some block work wall recently laid.
Dec 10	Belgrave	Near miss	Truck was stationary on a steep gravel road and restraining chains had been removed to unload an excavator before the truck rolled back, slipping backwards about 5m and when it stopped the excavator slid off.
Dec 10	Oakleigh	Near miss	Semi was dumping some dirt and as it tipped to dump, only half of the load came out with the remainder becoming stuck in the top of the trailer. Top heavy trailer toppled over in the wind.
Dec 10	Frankston	Lacerated right shin	Employee lifting plastic noise-wall panels and whilst moving a panel, it slid down and hit right shin.
Dec 10	Pakenham	Near miss	Grader pulled a power cable down as it was passing which started a small grass fire.
Dec 10	East Melbourne	Near miss	Truck transporting a cherry picker made a right-hand turn and the load fell off the vehicle
Dec 10	Moorabbin	Near miss	Excavator ruptured gas service pipe line whilst trenching as part of some works to install valves in water lines.
Dec 10	Kensington	Crushed right hand	Contractor greasing track on the man and material hoist when his right hand became trapped between the track and hoist.
Dec 10	Southbank	Near miss	Stanley knife fell 18 floors from an employee's tool belt onto a gantry and then onto a street below.
Dec 10	Melbourne	Near miss	Two tower cranes working in close proximity when boom of one struck A-frame of the other.
Dec 10	Ballarat	Lacerated left finger	Employee cutting a piece of timber with drop saw when guard spring popped out, causing the saw to come down on its own weight and on his finger.
Dec 10	Bendigo	Lacerated left index finger	Welder removing steel boom from a clamp when boom slipped and trapped finger.
Dec 11	Box Hill	Near miss	Scaffold contractor loaded a stillage too high with scaffold ledgers and two slid off of the top, falling approximately 5m to the ground floor.
Dec 11	Cranbourne	Electric shock	Subcontractor plugging power tools into a temporary power board received an electric shock.
Dec 11	Knox	Near miss	Employee was clearing storm drain using a root cutter when a gas main was hit.
Dec 11	Werribee	Lacerated chin	Employee tripped while walking along road on site.
Dec 11	Melbourne	Electric shock	Employee received electric shock while testing and tagging ceiling valves.
Dec 11	St Kilda	Fractured right finger	Contract plumber using a scissor lift in the basement to run a line of pipe up jammed his hand when the lift moved

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			unexpectedly because wheels were uneven.
Dec 11	Melbourne	Lacerated right index finger	Employee tying cable ties on roof lightning conductors when he slipped and contacted a stainless steel u-channel.
Dec 11	East Melbourne	Lacerated eye	Employee had a fragment of tile lodged in his eye when he was grinding two tiles (whilst wearing safety glasses) as part of defect rectification works.
Dec 11	North Melbourne	Fractured rib	Employee working on formwork installing the joists fell 1.5m to the ground.
Dec 11	Melton	Near miss	Subcontractor was looking where to install a fence post while poking ground with crow bar he hit a gas line.
Dec 11	Western Melbourne	Unknown	Contractor on two-storey house fitting weatherboards climbed onto the pitched roof without any fall protection and slipped, falling off roof approximately 6m.
Dec 11	Corio	Near miss	Excavator was being operated in a room when drove it through a doorway and tipped the machine over onto its side.
Dec 12	Hawthorn	Near miss	Excavation carried out near 1.10m high brick wall and 15m length of the wall fell into 1m deep trench.
Dec 12	Croydon	Fractured left thumb	Apprentice plumber on 6-foot ladder was leaning on fence putting clip on residential down pipe when he slipped and fell landing on his left hand.
Dec 12	Mulgrave	Amputated finger	Contractor moving a piece of air-conditioning duct and when putting lagging on it the duct caught with another piece of duct and severed his finger at the first joint
Dec 12	Wangaratta	Lacerated face	Employee installing new door when he slipped on tiled floor lacerating his cheek on a door jam.
Dec 12	Lalor	Lacerated fore and middle fingers	Employee drilling rivet holes when drill bit slipped off the capping and hit his hand.
Dec 12	Goulburn Valley	Injured back	Employee building a new structure over existing building when he fell through the sky light about 2.8m onto a timber floor.
Dec 12	Carlton	Lacerated nose	Air-conditioning grill fell on employee when he was measuring it for a filter.
Dec 12	Bendigo	Lacerated left finger	Contractor on stepladder fastening top of aluminum foil paper roll on a steel frame house and was pushing on a screw gun when it slipped, causing him to lose balance and grab a diagonal steel brace strap.
Dec 12	Ocean Grove	Lacerated left shoulder	Employee working on speed brace when it fell onto his shoulder
Dec 12	Goulburn Valley	Lacerated left hand	Employee drilling into plastic pipe when drill bit snapped off and imbedded into his left hand.
Dec 13	Prahran	Lacerated arm	Employee undertaking demolition work inside shop and slid a wok burner to the side when he cut his arm on a piece of metal.
Dec 13	Melbourne	Near miss	Crane-prop fell from ground floor to basement level.
Dec 13	Southbank	Near miss	Employees levelling a crush rock area when a crow bar punctured a 25mm gas poly pipe.

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Dec 13	Carlton	Near miss	A bend blew out on a concrete placing boom. Rapid concrete pump (53m boom pump) blew out a 45 degree elbow on the first section of the boom.
Dec 13	Melbourne	Near miss	Employees coming down a swing stage scaffold when cable got caught on a bolt and couldn't be released. Power turned off and swing stage lowered manually.
Dec 13	Bendigo	Lacerated arms	Crane being used to erect light poles when a glass lens from the light either fell or was bumped by the crane. The lens fell 12m, hit the boom and split it into pieces then struck a worker's shoulders and arms.
Dec 14	Melbourne	Amputated fingertip	Employee removing concrete pump line when it dropped and caught his finger between pipeline lip and the supporting bracket.
Dec 14	Bendigo	Lacerated left wrist	Employee fixing a metal roof batten cut himself on sharp edge.

Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
Dec 8	Mining	Near miss	Tyre fire on concrete truck.
Dec 9	Mining	Near miss	Employee was bolting when rock wall collapsed.