

Reported incidents

24 September 2013

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox there have been 39 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
6 Sept	Gippsland	Broken legs	Two lengths of structural steel were bolted together (20 metres / two tonne) and resting on timber bearers about four inches off the ground, ready for installation. The site had been barricaded when a crane operator noticed the beam had rolled onto a man's legs.
6 Sept	Carlton	Lacerated eye	A wheel splintered and hit an employee's face when he was blowing string lines and installing cable.
6 Sept	Collingwood	Electric shock	When grinding into a plastic water tank, a plumber received an electric shock.
9 Sept	Mornington Peninsula	Lacerated leg	Employee was installing a floor and cutting boxes open when box cutter slipped and cut his calf.
9 Sept	Gippsland	Near miss	An excavator was tracking when it crossed underneath onsite power lines, and caused a power failure.
9 Sept	Melbourne	Near miss	A window fell onto the street from a construction site, narrowly missing pedestrians.
9 Sept	Heidelberg	Near miss	Building renovations were taking place when a gust of wind pushed open a fourth floor window, breaking the glass pane which fell onto a grassed area below.
9 Sept	Ballarat	Fractured right wrist, injured left wrist	Employee was on top of a house truss without fall protection when he slipped and fell two metres to the ground.
9 Sept	Mildura	Lacerated right finger	Apprentice was lifting a length of strut onto his vehicle when it flipped. When he tried to grab it, he cut his finger.
9 Sept	Bellarine Peninsula	Lacerated forearm	Employee was in an elevated work platform using a chain saw to cut a branch when he lacerated his left forearm.
10 Sept	Box Hill	Injured ankle	Dogman in a man-box transporting steel plates up when they shifted and struck his ankle.
10 Sept	Hawthorn	Near miss	A five inch reducer at the end of a concrete pump blew apart.
10 Sept	South Melbourne	Near miss	A rubber hose that had been blowing mulch came apart and fell from level ten to the balcony of level three.
10 Sept	Melbourne	Near miss	A concrete core fell from level 16 to level four of a building. The core fell through screening and broke into small pieces, with the closest person about five metres away.
11 Sept	Glen Waverley	Broken ankle	Contractor was walking down some stairs with a ladder when he missed the last step and fell.
11 Sept	Melbourne	Near miss	A piece of 'C' channel fell from height to the ground, possibly blown by wind off the edge of a building.

Reported incidents

11 Sept	Brunswick	Near miss	A fire started when the grinding of mesh caused some waffle pads to catch alight.
11 Sept	Melbourne	Near miss	Broken glass fell from level 17 to a drop zone on level three and also fell to the footpath in a barricaded area.
11 Sept	Stonnington	Near miss	A remote controlled tower crane was being moved when a malfunction caused the crane to keep going while not being operated. It touched some high voltage wires and caused a power outage.
12 Sept	Moonee Ponds	Near miss	A telehandler's outriggers hadn't been extended and the boom was extended 1.5m away from full extension, when the load grounded and caused the rear wheels to lift off the ground.
13 Sept	Ringwood	Lacerated hand	Contractor installing a door frame in a lift, climbed out of the lift pit and cut his right hand on a stainless steel edge.
13 Sept	Moonee Ponds	Head injuries	Contractor was struck on the head by a drilling rig.
13 Sept	Werribee	Back injury	Carpenter was installing roof trusses when a cord snapped causing him to fall onto a concrete slab more than two metres below.
13 Sept	Port Melbourne	Electric shock	Contractor was rendering a wall when his trowel touched a cable that was hanging out, and felt an electric shock up his arm.
13 Sept	Ballarat	Lacerated thumb	Employee was on a boom-type elevated work platform bucket and using an overhead chain saw to cut a branch when the cutting turned back, making the saw contact his thumb.
16 Sept	Dandenong	Eye injury	Employee's eye was irritated by some unidentified dust.
16 Sept	Heidelberg	Near miss	A decommissioned tower crane cable was blown by the wind and struck the jib of another mobile crane.
16 Sept	Reservoir	Lacerated finger, injured shoulder	Apprentice carpenter fell two metres through some scaffolding and grabbed at the edge of some steel during the fall, cutting her finger.
17 Sept	Mulgrave	Electric shock	A contractor installing a surface mounted fire collar, screwed through a temporary cable that was hidden behind the wall causing him an electric shock and tripping the RCD.
17 Sept	Monash	Electric shock	Electrician working on a switchboard was trying to fix a fan monitor and touched two exposed wires on the board.
17 Sept	Melbourne	Lacerated nose	Employee dropped a tape measure which fell one storey and struck another employee on the nose.
17 Sept	North Melbourne	Near miss	An AC cable was cut and the circuit-breaker tripped when a contractor was cutting some brick with a grinding disc.
18 Sept	Box Hill	Near miss	A sheet of checker plate dislodged from a hoist and fell five levels (approximately 15 metres) to the ground. Nobody was underneath but employees were on site.
18 Sept	Melbourne	Electric shock	When a swing stage scaffold failed it was lowered to the ground. A scaffolding company employee arrived to

Reported incidents

S			check the fault, activated the 'on' switch and received an electric shock.
18 Sept	Melbourne	Electric shock	Electrician was testing a light fitting when he received an electric shock.
19 Sept	Shepparton	Cracked rib	During road works, an employee was on the back of a truck untangling a hose when he fell approximately one metre and landed on an irrigation grate.
19 Sept	Ballarat	Near miss	During excavations the side of a trench became unstable, possibly due to bad weather, and stretched a gas poly-line which then started to leak.
19 Sept	Hamilton	Lacerated finger	Employee lifting a concrete block into a bobcat bucket jammed a finger on his left hand.

Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
9 Sept	Quarrying	Near miss	An excavator contacted 22KV power lines.