

Reported incidents

5 December 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 44 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
19/11	Blackburn	Severe bruising	A worker was on top of the rafters of a portico when he fell onto the floor beneath, landing on his buttocks.
	Melbourne	Fatal heart attack	A worker collapsed while working on Regional Rail Link.
	Melbourne	Laceration to index finger right hand	A worker was operating a floor scraper machine. He was attempting to change scraper blade when the spanner slipped and cut his finger.
	Ballarat	Near miss	A crane boom cable used to operate a boom mechanism on a non-slewing mobile crane snapped while shifting a concrete block (weighing two tonne).
20/11	Malvern	Crushed index finger	A worker was using a sledge hammer when he missed the star picket, hitting his right hand.
	Docklands	Electric shock	While inspecting a swing stage scaffold (where one of the windshields was not working) a worker pressed the start button to reset the power board and received an electric shock to his left arm.
	Kew	Loss of consciousness	A worker was operating an EWP with scaffolding tubes in the basket. It appears the tube got caught and flung back striking him in the head.
	Geelong	Stitches to leg	A male worker cut his leg with a piece of tin.
	Warrnambool	Electric shock	An apprentice electrician was making repairs and changing lights when he received an electric shock.
21/11	Warragul	Cut to right index finger	A male apprentice was removing a piece of acrylic when he hit the blade.
	Dandenong	Lacerations to left hand	A worker was installing a ducting system when his co-worker dropped an angle grinder, hitting him on the back of the hand.
	Parkville	Near miss	A 150 x 100 piece of timber fell from the ninth level as it was being passed through a screen that was breached. The worker slipped, causing the timber to fall to the loading bay on level five and then to the ground below.
	Ballarat	Laceration to the wrist – three stitches	A roof plumber received a laceration to his wrist while installing metal flashings from an EWP.

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	Bendigo	Cut to left finger tip	A male apprentice was using a table saw when he brushed the edge of the blade.
22/11	Ferntree Gully	Fractured wrist	A male worker was drilling into a railway sleeper when the drill bit got stuck, spinning the drill around.
	Hawthorn	Electric shock	An electrician received an electric shock while working on a mechanical air conditioning unit.
	Essendon	Suspected break to ankle	A male worker's leg was positioned near an excavator bucket - when the operator moved the bucket he struck the worker's ankle.
	Torquay	Burns - face, hands and feet/ankles	An electrician was working on a switchboard stripping cables when it exploded, causing burns to his face, hands and feet/ankles.
23/11	Clyde	Fracture to left hand	A contractor was working on a unit when he fell off a ladder and landed awkwardly on his hand.
	Sale	Cut to face	A worker hit his face with an angle grinder.
	Southbank	Near miss	A worker was removing a pre-cast panel support when a bracket (about 200-300 mm long) came loose and fell 21 levels to the driveway.
	Southbank	Near miss	A hammer fell through a gap in a balcony balustrade on the 38 th level. There was no meshing underneath to catch it.
	Tullamarine	Laceration to left cheek	A male worker was operating a mini-twin drum roller on an uneven surface when his face struck the roll bar.
	Geelong	Near miss	A crane was bringing up a hook when it went too far, the stopper failed and the hook bashed into a pulley causing the chain to fall off.
26/11	Glen Waverley	Back injury	A carpenter was working in the roof trusses when he reached out to grab a timber that was not nailed and fell about three metres to the ground.
	Glen Waverley	Fractured left wrist, bruising to backside	A worker was nailing a platform to a parapet on commercial construction site when he slipped off the bottom cord of a truss falling onto gravel below.
	Maidstone	Deep laceration to left thumb.	An apprentice carpenter was feeding timber through a power saw when the saw hit a knot, causing the blade to jump.
	Coleraine	Crushed finger	A worker was adjusting a roller door. As he released the tension and manually lifted the door, it rolled itself up and

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S			crushed his middle finger.
27/11	Mitcham	Right ankle injury	A worker was taking shovels from the back of the truck. As he stepped back his foot went onto the edge of curb and he rolled his ankle over edge.
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	Prahran	Near miss	A spare metal bracket attached to a crane and held by a cable tie fell to the ground.
	Bendigo	Lacerated left wrist require surgery	A male worker received a lacerated left wrist when he slipped on a roof, hitting an iron roof sheet.
28/11	Glen Waverley	Electric shock	An apprentice received an electric shock from a battery while replacing an electronic ballast on an emergency light.
	Melbourne	Laceration to face	A worker was cutting a concrete panel with a concrete saw when it jammed, kicked back and the handle hit him in the face.
	Bendigo	Laceration to right index finger	A worker cut his right index finger while working on some roof sheets.
	Warrnambool	Lacerated hand	A plumber was installing roof flashing when he cut his hand.
	Bacchus Marsh	Fractured cheek bone left side	A male worker fell off a step ladder when hanging a string line. He hit his cheek on a concrete slab.
29/11	Dingley	Deep laceration to right leg	A worker was using a saw to work through a wall to rebate for a shower base. As he did this, the saw grabbed into the timber, kicked back and went into his leg.
	St Kilda	Fractured left ring finger	A worker was lifting a valve cover out of the ground. As he put it down, he pinched his left ring and middle fingers between the conduit and cover.
	Shepparton	Laceration to right hand	An apprentice received a laceration to the hand from steel pieces while tying a rope on a trailer.
	Bendigo	Fracture to index finger and laceration to middle finger	A worker was digging a rock out of the ground using a crowbar. While swinging the crowbar in a downwards motion he crushed his index and middle finger between the crowbar and steel post sticking out of the ground.

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Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
19/11	Mining	Arm injury	Worker was cleaning level sensor on ball mill when his arm was caught in rotating equipment.
20/11	Mining	Near miss	Haul truck travelling down decline when it collided with parked light vehicle and turned the vehicle over.
23/11	Mining	Thumb laceration	Worker was using a five-inch grinder in a mine when it slipped.
25/11	Mining	Near miss	Bore pump generator battery on continuous operation caught fire (potentially from over-heating), resulting in minor damage to the pump.