

Notified incidents

22 May 2012

Since the last edition of *Safety Soapbox*, there have been 60 incidents reported to WorkSafe, from the construction, utilities, quarrying and mining industries. Below is a summary of these incidents.

Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
4 May 2012		
Essendon	Leg injury	Worker received a fractured leg after stepping back and partially falling into an open manhole.
Reservoir	Foot fracture	Worker's foot was crushed by an excavator that rolled over it.
5 May 2012		
Southbank	Nail through the hand and leg laceration	Worker fell over after filling up a nail bag and received a laceration to the leg and a nail through the hand.
Frankston	Lacerations	Member of the public fell through a sewerage pit lid that was in the process of being replaced.
6 May 2012		
Wonthaggi	Electric shock	Worker placed an electric pump into a sump, plugged the pump into electrical supply and turned it on. Appears to have received an electric shock.
7 May 2012		
Eaglehawk	Fractured skull, lacerations to both elbows	Worker using a ladder to climb down from a top plate fell about 2.2 metres.
Hawthorn East	Near miss	Locking pin on a glass sucker sheared while it was being rotated, glass sucker was hooked to crane at the time.
Ballarat	Laceration	Worker hit head on conduit hanging over a ladder rack of a Ute.
Camberwell	Laceration	Worker setting up cement mixed, slipped, fell and cut left shin.
Greensborough	Concussion	Worker fell off ladder and was knocked unconscious.
8 May		
Taylors Hill	Puncture wound	Worker was on a ladder fixing eaves with a nail gun when he slipped and the gun fired a three-inch nail into the top of his left hand.
Longford	Lacerations	Worker was participating in a confined space entry training course. Was using Rollgliss when left ring finger became caught between the rope and pulley blocks.
Bendigo	Laceration	Worker was carrying a sheet of metal when it slipped in his

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		hand and caused a laceration to the right thumb.
Canterbury	Near miss	A mantu was being used to shift a pack of plywood on the ground floor by a worker. The driver drove onto ply that was covering a penetration. A wheel broke through the ply covering causing it to tip onto an angle.
Horsham	Electric shock	Worker received a minor electric shock from a 'dead' circuit.
9 May		
Mt Martha	Laceration to back of head	New pipe work was being pressure tested and a plug placed in the end of the pipe. The plug dislodged and hit a piece of timber, which then hit a worker in the head.
Tullamarine	Serious lacerations	Worker was cutting kitchen cupboards with a scribe saw and cut the tip of his middle and ring fingers on right hand.
Wantirna	Amputation of finger	Worker was removing a trailer from the back of a Ute. He put the jockey wheel down and wound it up. The trailer moved and crushed his right hand middle finger.
Bendigo	Near miss	A piece of timber six metres long fell from a scissor lift to the ground and landed in a roped off area.
Templestowe	Burns	Worker was jack hammering into the road and sustained a flash burn.
Warrnambool	Laceration	Worker raked fingers across a gang nail plat and lacerated his fingers on right hand.
Melbourne	Electric shock	Worker was switching off a hot/cold water tap and received a shock.
Dromana	Near miss	While excavating material in preparation for footpath an excavator contacted a gas distribution line and the line ruptured.
Mount Waverley	Fractured ribs and other bones	Worker was underneath part of house that was being relocated and became trapped underneath.
Malvern	Asbestos exposure	Workers were demolishing a boiler panel using an acetylene torch, dust was spread everywhere, the dust was sampled and was laboratory tested and confirmed to be asbestos.
10 May		
Brighton East	Notified incident	Double storey house under construction reported as unsafe.
Glen Waverley	Near miss	Glass was being installed on the fifth storey of a building when the glass clipped the scaffold and shattered with workers in the immediate vicinity

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Morwell	Bruising to knee	Worker was struck by a reversing car in the car park.
Southbank	Electric shock	While working in a roof space a worker moved a live cable, tape came loose at the end of the cable and the worker sustained an electric shock.
Maribyrnong	Scratched cornea	Worker was welding copper pipe when they came apart, knocking off safety glasses and making contact with the worker's eye, resulting in a scratched cornea.
Surrey Hills	Near miss	Worker fell about three metres while replacing slate tiles on a roof and a timber batten gave way.
Vermont South	Upper left arm and chest injury	A three metre handrail component slid out from between two sheets that were being moved, sliding down a roof and through perimeter handrail, deflecting onto a lower roof into a public area and making contact with a member of the public causing injury.
St Arnaud	Electric shock	Worker was removing old wiring to install new wiring in the hall and thought it was isolated but felt a current.
11 May		
Elwood	Crushing injury	Worker was loading a steel road plate onto a vehicle when his finger became trapped between the plate and vehicle, sustaining a crush injury to the middle and ring fingers on one hand.
Werribee	Near miss	Worker was excavating a storm water trench when the ground gave way and the excavator fell onto its side.
East Keilor	Near miss	An excavator tipped onto its side and began leaking diesel.
Docklands	Near miss	Sheet of plywood fell five floors through screen and landed on the street.
Ballarat	Fractured thumb and wrist	Worker was fitting insulation to a carport on an existing home when he put weight on a roof baton, lost balance and fell about two metres.
14 May		
Bentleigh	Laceration to left forearm	Worker slipped off the second ladder rung while taking a measurement and cut himself on the forearm.
Pakenham	Near miss	An excavator dug through underground electrical power supply while doing civil works installing a sewer.
Wodonga	Near miss	While excavating the ground, machinery struck an underground gas main.
Sunshine West	Near miss	A crane was repositioning trusses on the top plate using a basket hitch method. When the load was lifted, the trusses shifted and the load slipped onto the first floor damaging a

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		2.4-metre high wall.
15 May		
Essendon North	Crushed hand	Worker had hand on top of a pipe while going up in a scissor lift and the hand became caught between the concrete slab and the pipe, crushing his hand.
Ballarat	Fracture vertebrae	Worker fell from a flat verandah roof and fractured vertebrae in lower back.
16 May		
Parkville	Near miss	A truck backed into a loading bay preparing to unload. A worker loosened two straps and a piece of metal pipe dislodged, fell and struck him in the head. He was wearing safety helmet at the time.
Toorak	Ankle sprain	The bolt on a void protector failed after the protector tilted at a height of about 2.7 metres. A worker then rolled their ankle on the unlevel ground.
Shepparton	Puncture wound to eye	Worker was denailing timber when he received a puncture wound to the left eye.
17 May		
Carrum Downs	Fractured fibula	Worker was walking around the site when he slipped in the mud. His foot landed on a rock and twisted his right knee.
Laverton	Near miss	Worker was operating an overhead crane when the electric motor came loose, fell and hit him on the head.
18 May		
Fitzroy	Electric shock	Worker removed a ceiling tile to access a roof space, and received an electric shock from the air conditioning cushion box while trying to move it out of the way.
Melbourne	Concussion	Worker was walking down stairs, with a scaffold erected at the top of the stairs, when his head hit a low ledge of the scaffold.
Chirnside Park	Head injury	Worker sustained a head injury when a hose came off a concrete pump and hit him. He was wearing a hard hat.
Beaumaris	Possible fractured arm	Worker fell approximately 1.8, from an unstable ladder.
Canterbury	Amputated fingertip	Worker was using a cutting tool when the tip of his finger became amputated.
Endeavour Hills	Broken ankle	Apprentice was installing solar panels on a flat roof, when he stood on the laser light section and fell through.
Mining		

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Costerfield	Eye injury	Worker got oil in the eye after a hose burst on the underground excavator he was operating.
Ouyen	Near miss	Haul truck has lost steering and driven through a safety barrier and over an edge of approximately 12 metres. Truck landed on its wheels, some front step damage and hydraulic hose blown.
Ballarat	Crushed finger	Worker was loading a drill steel onto a vehicle when he tripped and the drill steel fell onto his hand crushing the right index finger on the vehicle tray (between knuckle and first digit).
Morwell	Near miss	While re-fueling a small jerry full of fuel, the can ignited and set alight the sleeve alight.
Costerfield	Back bruising	While working underground, a football sized piece of rock fell out of the rock face, rolled down the jumbo boom and hit a worker on the back.