

# Notified incidents

25 September 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 66 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	Incident description
7 September	BUNDOORA	Near miss	4.5 metre roof flashing that was being lifted by a mobile crane. It fell off and landed to the ground. Fall height approx 4 metres.
	TULLAMARINE	Laceration to left thumb	Carpenter was sharpening his chisel, as he went to put it back into his pouch, he slipped and it caused a laceration to his hand (left). He was taken to the medical centre for surgery.
	WAURN PONDS (QUARRY)	Injuries unknown	Excavator driver was moving rock from a rock blast (on a base of rock), using a 5T rock hammer but overnight the ground became soft due to rain, and the excavator sank and has tipped over onto its side. Driver was sent to the doctors to be checked out.
	WODONGA	Deep laceration to left knee	Male using 9 inch angle grinder that cut back on him into his left knee causing a deep laceration. Approximately 50 stitches required.
	HAZELWOOD	Near miss	Short section of scaffold tube has fallen from one level to the next, approx 1.8m. It landed beside a worker.
	EPPING	Four broken vertebrae and laceration to elbow	Air conditioning installer was on a ladder fitting off the heating. He fell from about 1.5 m
10 September	BELMONT	Severe laceration and tendon and nerve damage.	Work experience student, 16, under supervision of a 4th year apprentice, ran a saw into his left arm causing requiring surgery
	COSTERFIELD (MINE)	Near miss	Miner was boring the rock face when a large slab of rock fell from the face and landed on the drill steel that he was using, he was forced to move out the way of the falling rock avoiding injury.
	NORTHCOTE	Suspected fractured ankle	Dogger was on 3rd floor and stood outside on piece of timber with no handrail and flooring collapsed. Worker fell from height of 3 metres.
	COLAC	Near miss	Contractor crashed the forklift into a parked trailer. Extensive damage to the forklift.
	KANGAROO FLAT	Near miss	Connecting a 20mm gas service to a house the gas line has caught fire presumably from the rotary hoe sparks. Road Closed. Police and CFA are in attendance. Gas being burnt off until gas mains can be turned off.
	SOUTH YARRA	Severed tip of little finger	Carpenter was working at the site relocating a staircase with another worker when the staircase slipped crushing/trapping his left hand little finger.
	MELBOURNE	Laceration to finger	Worker was cutting furring channel using a drop saw. The cut end fell off the end of the rollers and as it kicked up, the operator's hand contact the running down saw blade resulting in a laceration to the right index finger.
	BELLFIELD	Fracture to arm	A vehicle was travelling in the worksite, the driver lost control of the vehicle and it struck a roadside tree at low speed. A passenger in the rear was injured.
11 September	COSTERFIELD (MINE)	Laceration to face	Employee was installing a resin bolt ground support. He was holding the bolt with his right hand and he lent out to grab the drill and the bolt and plate fell off and struck him on the chin. Stitches required.
	MENTONE	Near miss	Worker was in process of clearing away dirt and lifted arm of boom, swinging it wrong way and smashed LHS cabin of excavator. Broken glass and dint to top of cabin. No injuries.
	FRESHWATER CREEK	Injuries unknown	Cement truck rolled over the driver. Taken to hospital with minor injuries.

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	PORT FAIRY	Laceration to right thumb and hand	Apprentice plumber was cutting a sheet of iron (10m long) at the back of a house. It slipped and fell on the back of his hand. Stitches required.
12 September	SOUTHBANK	Near miss	Gust of wind picked up two pieces of corrugated iron (approx 1.5 metres x 900 ml) from level 22 and blew it into an adjoining property (approx 50 metres away). No injuries, no damage.
	RINGWOOD	Near miss	Excavator hit 22kva overhead powerlines. The lines have fallen and electricity company is on site making repairs.
	WILLIAMSTOWN	Laceration through bone on left thumb and hand	Employee was cutting bearer with an electric saw. The saw kicked back and cut into hand. Surgery required.
13 September	WANTIRNA	Puncture wound. Full injuries unknown	Worker was assisting in assembling an air conditioner grill received a puncture wound to his index finger. While it was being drilled the screw went through grill and into his finger. He later went to hospital and was kept in overnight to determine if there was any tendon/nerve damage.
	SPRINGVALE	Laceration to the forehead and under the left eye	Worker fell off the ladder hitting his head on the tile cutter.
	FLEMINGTON	Crushed right middle finger	Employee was uncoupling a trailer when the trailer coupling crushed his finger between the coupling and the ground.
	MELBOURNE	Electric shock	Employee was mixing water and concrete with a mixer. Someone accidentally kicked the bucket over with the mixer still working and the employee received electric shock when the mixer was picked up out of the water.
	SUMMERLANDS	Suspected slipped disc	Employee moving concrete blocks (30-40kgs each). He tried to lift one onto his shoulder to carry it resulting in lower back pain taken to hospital by ambulance.
	TEMPLESTOWE	Suspected broken thumb	Employee fell from a first story building site while building the guard railing. He fell 2.4 metres and was taken to hospital by work colleague.
14 September	HALLAM	Laceration and degloving of skin on left hand index finger	Employee was using a pedestal drill at the host employers workplace. The glove that he was wearing got caught in the drill piece.
	TORQUAY	Injuries unknown	Employee has turned on a hydrant for the underground irrigation. When he did this the hydrant came off the ground and hit the employee in the knee and in the head. Unable to move leg. Currently waiting for ambulance.
	RICHMOND	Near miss	Concrete pouring of a deck taking place. The void in the area of the slab partially collapsed.
	BAYSWATER	Laceration to left arm	Contractor stepped down from a ladder and caught his left arm (just above the elbow) on a sharp piece of metal on a portable building. Taken to hospital by ambulance, and requires surgery.
	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Internal demolition was being conducted to pull down the ceiling when a piece of masonite 300mm x 300mm fell through a boarded first floor window onto the pavement below.
	CAMPBELL FIELD	Crush injury right forearm and hand	Electrician was using a travel tower (23 metre) to do some electrical work on the advertisement sign on the side of a building. He was in the bucket with his arm resting on the side when the tower spontaneously moved causing the arm to be crushed up underneath of the sign.
	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Falling object: a 100mm x 30mm aluminium packer sheet fell from the 10th floor onto the outside of the no go zone on Flinders Lane after it slipped out of an employees hands.

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	ABOTTSFORD	Near miss	Worker drilling into a concrete slab for precast panel props and struck a live electrical cable in the cement.
	BROOKLYN	Multiple cracked ribs, punctured lung	Labourer had finished his shift for the day and was having a shower on site. Reported that he fell in the shower. Apparently when he got home he became unwell and went to hospital for surgery.
17 September	DOCKLANDS	Crush injury to right thumb	Employee was laying formwork when the formwork jack dropped out and crushed the tip of his right thumb. Surgery required.
	PAKENHAM	Laceration to legs	Worker was cutting the metal strapping off a pack of glass that had been delivered and was sitting on an "A" frame when the glass sheets sprang out after one of the metal bands had been cut and pinned the worker by his legs.
	TRARALGON SOUTH	Near miss	Power station outage, internal boiler (level 3 inside the boiler) was grinding a steel plate approx 1000 mm x 200mm x 5mm approx 8 -12kg and it has over balanced and fallen through two scaffold planks and hit level two, and dislodged another plank and has fallen to level one, and dislodged a further two scaffold planks and has come to rest approx 1500mm below that. There were two employees approx 4 metres from the fallen plate on the first level.
	ST KILDA	Broken leg	Contractor was operating a concrete road-saw when it tipped over onto his leg.
	DANDENONG SOUTH	Laceration to finger	Employee was using a Mag drill, and had it on the floor, changing the drill bit, and has leaned on the trigger, and the drill has started, resulting in a laceration to his finger. Stitches required.
	BRUNSWICK	Near miss	Work was taking place using a tower crane on Friday. The hook and chains ran over by 10 meters and fell to the ground level approx 1.5 meters from where the dogman was standing. The tower is being serviced.
	SOUTHBANK	Lacerated head	Worker was near a tower crane that was being dismantled when a spanner type of tool (podgy) fell down to the loading bay and fell onto worker's hard hat causing a laceration to his head.
	BORONIA	Near miss	20 metre high trees being cut down by excavator in darkness near homes.
	HEIDELBERG	Sliced top off index finger left hand	Contractor was repairing vinyl when he cut index finger on left hand with knife.
	SPOTSWOOD		An electrician was undertaking some maintenance work prior to the centre opening. Contractor was driving an EWP through the exhibition space when he hit an exhibit. The EWP nudged a column, slightly damaging it.
18 September	CANTERBURY	Hand and head injury	Employee fell from a ladder on a domestic construction site while completing some painting. Employee was admitted to hospital overnight.
	YARRAWONGA	Degloved and part amputated finger	Truck driver was on the ladder of the back of the truck when he has slipped on the ladder and caught his wedding ring (left ring finger) on the corner of the ladder. He fell approx 1metre but the ring was caught.
	ALTONA	Near miss	Contractor was working on site unloading scaffold components. It's possible he drove into a crane prop and didn't report this before leaving the site. This has led to the crane being unestablished The crane has been immobilised and can't be used and crane company is coming out to look at it now. Risk is that the crane may topple over.
	MELBOURNE	Right knee cap injured	Employer injured his right knee cap while installing a steel door. His knee knocked into the door while installing it.
	WODONGA	Fractured left arm	Male was walking backwards using a sucker hose and lost his balance and his left leg went into open pit. Put arm out to brace fall and landed

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			on left arm.
	DERRIMUT	Serious laceration to the right side of his neck	Welder was using an angle grinder on the roof, cutting some steel, when the angle grinder bit and jumped, cutting his neck. Stitches required.
	ST HELENA	Left shoulder dislocated	Subcontractor tripped over an edge of concrete on the footpath and popped his left shoulder. He was taken to hospital and the shoulder was put back into place.
	CARAPOOK	Complaining of sore back, legs and fingers	32 year old male employee was in a raised boom lift at a height of approx 4 metres. Heard a crack and the whole thing went sideways. Full extent of injuries unknown.
	KEW	Suspected heart attack	Male, age unknown Setting up profiles for bricks, became clammy and sweaty, called the '1300 nurse number' and was advised to contact get to hospital. An ambulance was called.
	WARRANTYTE	Unknown	Unsafe asbestos removal during house renovation.
	DANDENONG SOUTH	Squashed ring finger right hand	Worker caught his ring finger of right hand between the protective guard and sander belt of a hand held portable electric belt sander. Finger squashed in sander unable to remove sander. Taken to hospital by ambulance where finger was removed from sander.
	COLLINGWOOD	Fractured leg and lacerations to face, arms and leg	Truck driver attended a site to pick up an excavator. While standing on the tray of the truck, the driver was moving the chains from the back of the truck so that the excavator could be driven onto the tray, when he fell off the truck, landing on his face.
	DEER PARK	Lacerated neck	Worker was using a 9 inch angle grinder to cut a steel beam, when the wheel grabbed and kicked backed and hit him in the neck.
19 September	MOUNT MARTHA	Crush injury to right little finger	Labourer was unloading an empty water barrier from back of a ute when the barrier slipped and crushed his right hand little finger between barrier and end of ute. He was wearing gloves. Stitches required.
	SPOTSWOOD	Laceration to shin	Bricklayer tripped while working on scaffold. Lacerated his shin, surgery required.
	BALLARAT	Near miss	While using a 2.5 ton Unic UR255A with a vacuum attachment to lift glass out of a crate and place on a frame, the crane tipped and came to rest with the boom resting on adjacent brick wall.
	BUNDOOORA	Near miss	Installation of new handrails was underway. Workers were hammer drilling to put chemsets into an existing staircase. As the hammer drilling was being done the workers hit something that caused a spark. Site was evacuated, pending further investigation. Electricians are investigating the unknown power source.
	RICHMOND	Electric shock	Male touched the earth cable clamp of the welder while assisting the welder and sustained an electric shock. They have identified the cause: clamp was attached to a precast load in a recess that had gathered water from recent rain.
	PARKVILLE	Fractured ribs	Worker was working on level 6 a scaffold. He was walking back backwards and then fell through the access ladder point. Fell approximately 1.5 meters.
	MOOROOLBARK	Near miss	Contractors are undertaking water main renewals in the area. While digging a hole yesterday, an arrowhead of a pipe burster hit a gas main causing a gas escape.
20 September	CASTLEMAINE	Lacerated finger	A worker was cutting product with a knife when it slipped and cut his finger. Stitches required.