

Reported incidents

30 July 2013

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox there have been 46 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
15 July	Boroondara	Broken nose	Two employees lifting rafters when one employee let go, causing a rafter to fall and hit the other employee.
15 July	Werribee	Injured fingers	Drill rig operator injured fingers on right hand.
15 July	Hurstbridge	Lacerated left hand	Employee was picking up a pack of timber and other materials including a metal flashing piece that cut his hand.
15 July	Footscray	Near miss	A concrete pump pipe split during a blow back procedure and about half a wheelbarrow full of concrete was projected.
15 July	Point Cook	Unknown	A plank dislodged while a brick cleaner was working from a scaffold, causing him to fall more than one and half metres.
16 July	Dandenong	Fractured left leg	Contractor walking through long grass when he tripped over some reinforcement and fell into a one and half metre trench.
16 July	Melbourne	Lacerated left finger	Employee lacerated his finger on an angle grinder when he failed to take his other finger off the trigger in time.
17 July	Lilydale	Near miss	During a concrete pour an electrical cable that was cast in a concrete slab was cut.
17 July	Waverley	Near miss	During a new water main installation, a 50mm gas main was punctured by a drill and gas escaped. The line hadn't been identified on dial before you dig plan.
17 July	Moreland	Near miss	Excavator struck a gas service during water main replacement. Employees had attempted to manually find the pipe prior to it being struck.
17 July	Craigieburn	Electric shock	Contractor was plugging a battery charger into a temporary switch board. The cord had a nick in it and he received an electric shock.
17 July	Footscray	Near miss	A gas line was ruptured by a machine bucket when a water main was being laid. The gas service had no trace line so a gas meter was used as a guide.
17 July	Bendigo	Electric shock	Refrigeration mechanic received an electric shock when he was fixing a drain (in a chiller) that had a heat line in it.
18 July	Ballarat	Eye injury	Employee's eye was struck by a ricocheting nail.
18 July	Malvern	Lacerated head and suspected concussion	Contractor was installing ply formwork and fell through a gap between the ply and the wall to a slab approximately two metres below.
18 July	Bayside	Electric shock	Employee plugging in a task light and received an electric shock. The tagged lead had been damaged after being run over by a scissor lift.

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18 July	Western Melbourne	Lacerated left thumb and finger	Employee walking through a new construction area at a medical facility when he tripped over a piece of reo and fell to the floor. While falling, his left hand hit a metal bracket that was also on the floor.
18 July	Werribee	Lacerated left hand	Contractor caught his hand between a steel star picket and the picket driver.
18 July	Melbourne	Near miss	Construction site while lifting a loaded kibble from loading bay onto level two deck for a concrete pour the kibble was onsite over the protection screens and partial opened and concrete fell onto the working deck from approx 8-9 meters high.
19 July	Mulgrave	Near miss	Gas main damaged by excavator.
19 July	Brimbank	Lacerated hand	Carpet layer was installing vinyl flooring in an apartment when he slipped with a knife.
19 July	Moreland	Near miss	A water main was being installed when a rock fell from a trench, hitting a galvanised service and causing a gas escape.
19 July	Werribee	Near miss	Employee was dropping some scaffold tubes down a gap to land on the sill of an abutment when one tube bounced off and fell six and half metres to ground.
22 July	Dandenong	Near miss	Excavator made contact with residential power feed line, bringing the line down.
22 July	Bundoora	Underarm laceration	Employee's safety vest caught in his electric demolition saw, which then pulled the shirt into the blade and caused the saw to flip upwards and into the man's armpit.
22 July	Ballarat	Bruising	Employee was trying to unblock a heater pipe when he fell through a perspex roof from a height of three metres.
23 July	Bayswater	Lacerated finger	Contractor was cutting timber with a knife when it slipped and cut his left finger.
23 July	Sunbury	Unknown	Semi driver was exiting a construction site when his trailer clipped the site fence causing it to fall onto a female who was walking past.
23 July	Melbourne	Punctured right palm	Contractor was building some temporary timber stairs using a gas operated nail gun and shot a nail through two pieces of timber into his right hand
23 July	Kilmore	Near miss	A 90ft mobile crane was lifting a precast concrete panel from the ground to a truck trailer, when the load fell.
24 July	Canterbury	Injured wrist	Employee was reaching for a planter box which gave way, causing him to fall.
24 July	Mill Park	Lacerated leg	Contractor cut his leg on metal roof flashing.
24 July	Ballarat	Lacerated thigh	Apprentice was using a circular saw when it jammed, kicked back and contacted his right thigh
25 July	Warragul	Injured forearm	Employee injured his forearm while using a gas gun.
25 July	Caulfield	Injured foot	Employee dropped plaster on his left foot.
25 July	Box Hill	Lacerated right hand	Employee was using a hammer drill when the bit got caught. While he was trying to remove it, the drill turned on.
25 July	Brunswick	Near miss	During the laying of water mains an excavator

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25 July	Melbourne	Near miss	Contractor installing a dowel bar approximately 500ml long when the bar slipped out of his hand and through an exposed gap of about 40mls, falling seven floors to a balcony below. The balcony's glass balustrade shattered and fell onto an exclusion zone and onto a road.
25 July	Castlemaine	Lacerated finger	Apprentice was planning a panel when he lacerated his right hand finger.
25 July	Kyneton	Lacerated finger	Man was using a planer when he sliced the tip of his left ring finger.
26 July	Clayton	Near miss	During demolition works of a two storey building a concrete floor slab unexpectedly collapsed.
26 July	Gippsland	Fractured left arm	Employee was on the step ladder installing an exhaust fan between where two vehicles were parked. One vehicle drove away, clipping the ladder, throwing the man off it.
26 July	Sandringham	Near miss	A tower crane was lifting a precast concrete panel when a clutch slipped and caused the panel to drop about one metre to the ground below.
26 July	Melbourne	Lacerated neck	Two employees were working on separate scissor lifts, using plasma cutter to cut some pool cladding. The plasma cutter stopped working so a nine-inch angle grinder was used instead. When some steel moved, it pinched the cutting disc which then shattered and a piece hit one of the men in the neck.
26 July	Moorabool	Back injury	Employee measuring a verandah when he fell about 12ft from the roof to ground.

Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
15 July	Quarry	Near miss	Fire occurred in a split system air conditioning unit in amenities room. Extinguished by employees.