

Reported incidents

8 October 2013

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 59 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
20 Sep	Clayton	Electric shock	Apprentice received an electric shock while working on emergency lighting.
20 Sep	Pakenham	Puncture wound to the right foot	Apprentice was erecting wall frames with a nail gun when he shot himself in the right foot.
23 Sep	Dandenong	Crushed right middle finger	Employee was operating a scissor lift and drove past some freestanding precast concrete panels.
23 Sep	Bentleigh	Lacerated thumb	Apprentice carpenter was helping build a deck and using a circular saw to cut timber when it hit a knot and kicked back.
23 Sep	Hawthorn	Punctured left knee	Employee was working on a temporary water service at a property and was crawling on his hands and knees when he knelt on a piece of wood with a nail in it.
23 Sep	Mulgrave	Broken thumb	Employee crushed his finger under a guillotine clamp.
23 Sep	Cranbourne	Punctured left foot	Apprentice shot his left foot with a nail gun.
23 Sep	Camberwell	Lacerated calf, dislocated knee	Contractor jumped a fence to enter a closed construction site, fell and injured his leg.
23 Sep	Carlton	Broken forearm	Steel scaffolding was being lowered when it dropped three metres, bounced off concrete and hit an employee's arm.
23 Sep	Footscray	Near miss	Employee was installing external glass panels on level 12 of a building when his helmet fell and landed on road below.
23 Sep	Altona	Near miss	Excavator hit a gas service.
23 Sep	Melbourne	Bruised back, compressed disc	Two-metre high mobile scaffolding was being erected when it fell sideways and hit an employee's back.
23 Sep	Mildura	Heart attack, fatality	Contractor had a heart attack on site and passed away in hospital.

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24 Sep	Brighton	Near miss	During traffic light works, a contractor was knocking a conduit sideways under a driveway with his sledge hammer and hit a gas pipe, causing a leak.
24 Sep	Moonee Ponds	Lacerated head	Employees were dismantling scaffolding and passing down pieces to a colleague below when a coupling slipped from someone's hands and fell onto the colleague's head. He was not wearing a hard hat.
24 Sep	Kensington	Near miss	Employees working on a water main renewal and hit a gas service pipe while lifting another pipe.
24 Sep	Craigieburn	Near miss	Two streetlights lights and a plaster wall were damaged by overnight high winds and fell.
24 Sep	South Morang	Bruised back	Carpenter accessing a roof with a ladder, slipped and fell while he was putting his harness on.
24 Sep	Melbourne	Back injury	Employee was hit by scaffold that had fallen approximately two and a half metres.
24 Sep	Campbellfield	Fractured wrist, lacerated index finger	Employee on a ladder measuring a roof when the ladder sank into the ground, causing him to slide down it.
24 Sep	Keilor	Lacerated hand	Roof plumber stumbled when he stepped onto a garage floor, grabbed onto some metal gutter spouting and cut his hand.
24 Sep	Ballarat	Broken leg	A member of the public stepped through some bollards on a road construction site and tripped over while crossing the road.
24 Sep	Bendigo	Lacerated right thumb	Employee handled a small, sharp metal product without wearing cut resistant gloves and cut his hand.
25 Sep	Mordialloc	Lacerated left thumb	Employee cleaning a tool with drill rotating wire brush, lost control and cut his hand.
25 Sep	Braeside	Lacerated left fingers	Employee was using a powered saw on timber when the timber moved and he cut his fingers.
25 Sep	Bentleigh	Fractured right hand	Employee replacing a roof when he jumped from some skylight sheets over to some metal sheets and fell.
25 Sep	Thomastown	Lacerated forearm	An employee was carrying steel ligatures when he dropped some and cut himself in the process.
25 Sep	Greensborough	Near miss	Employee damaged a gas service while using a shovel on a nature strip.

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25 Sep	Bendigo	Lacerated thumb	Employee dropped sheet of steel and cut his thumb on the edge of one.
26 Sep	Brighton	Near miss	A sheet of polycarbonate board flew off a building's second floor and onto a footpath.
26 Sep	Caroline Springs	De-gloved right leg	Employee moved an aluminium window to get to a particular area on site. He leaned the window against an internal wall and continued working on grinding concrete. The window then fell onto his leg.
26 Sep	Melbourne	Lacerated pinky finger	An employee was servicing an air conditioning unit when he caught his finger between the fan belt and pulley.
26 Sep	Footscray	Near miss	Scaffold boards blew from a scaffold and fell onto other levels.
26 Sep	Laverton	Near miss	A 20kg bag of roofing insulation blew off a roof and fell six metres to the ground.
26 Sep	Hurstbridge	Near miss	A gas service was hit during excavations for a new water main.
27 Sep	Patterson Lakes	Injured hip	Contractor fell through some sub-flooring when it gave way.
27 Sep	Cranbourne North	Lacerated hand	Employee using a nail gun when he hit a knot in the timber that caused the nail to ricochet and puncture the webbing between his thumb and fingers.
27 Sep	Traralgon	Near miss	Excavator was breaking a branch, when the branch pivoted and hit a power line, causing a black out.
30 Sep	Camberwell	Unknown	A motorist collided with traffic management barriers.
30 Sep	Berwick	Near miss	Underground cables were damaged during digging works.
30 Sep	Brighton	Broken leg	Employee jumped off of a trestle and landed awkwardly.
30 Sep	Caroline Springs	Injured finger	Employee slammed his finger in a garage door.
30 Sep	Melbourne	Near miss	Some large shards of glass fell from a building facade and the area was closed off.
1 Oct	Cheltenham	Crushed hand	An extendable ladder was not locked into place and retracted back, crushing an employee's hand.
1 Oct	Cranbourne	Near miss	Strong winds shifted a second storey frame, causing the ground floor walls and then the entire frame to collapse.
1 Oct	Caroline Springs	Near miss	The ceiling in an entry foyer collapsed.
1 Oct	Warrigal	Near miss	A hammer head crane trolley wheel fell 30 metres to the

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			ground.
2 Oct	Lakes Entrance	Bruising	A builder attempting to stop his ute rolling was crushed between the ute door and a fence post.
2 Oct	Hawthorn	Head injury	An electrical sub-contractor was driving a scissor lift between rooms through an aluminum doorway - as he drove the scissor lift over it, the ply broke and the scissor lift rolled back jamming his head between the railing and the top of the door frame.
2 Oct	South Yarra	Near miss	A 600mm x 400mm x 18mm ply blew off the building between level 10 and 11, and fell onto the road. No-one was injured.
2 Oct	Melbourne	Near miss	During strong winds the night before, covered walkway between the site buildings blew off and onto the ground near the buildings. No-one was injured.
2 Oct	Geelong	Head laceration	Employee working under a low loader ramp sustained a serious laceration to forehead as a result of plant failure.
2 Oct	Corio	Electric shock	During fault finding, employee received an electric shock.
2 Oct	Bendigo	Laceration to left index finger	Employee was nailing in noggins, and shot a nail into his left index finger long ways.
3 Oct	Cheltenham	Near miss	Whilst carrying out demolition works onsite, excavator has come in contact with the gas riser, rupturing the gas main. No-one was injured.
4 Oct	Ringwood	Chest pains	Employee was installing insulation paper around the residential building and had chest pains.
4 Oct	Melbourne	Near miss	Lifting clutch has come off the hook of the Favco 1000E crane. No-one was injured.
4 Oct	Port Melbourne	Broken right arm/elbow joint	Air conditioner installer was preparing to install an air conditioner when he fell off a ladder 4-5m landing onto the ladder on the ground.
4 Oct	Tullamarine	Near miss	Whilst excavating, a gas pipe was hit, puncturing the pipe. Some gas escaped. No-one was injured.