

Reported incidents

21 November 2012

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 incidents.

Date	Location	Injury description	Incident summary
5 Nov	Melbourne	Electric shock	Contractor on site repairing and replacing coils on an electrical board when he touched a cable and received an electrical shock to his left hand.
7 Nov	Moyne	Electric shock	Employee received electric shock from a generator.
7 Nov	Point Cook	Fractured left ankle	Apprentice contractor fitting flooring when some sheeting slipped and he fell through joists 2.7m to floor below.
8 Nov	Kyneton	Severed tendon on left thumb	Contractor not wearing gloves when pulling metal sheets onto roof of single story domestic construction, slipped on insulation paper and fell forward, puncturing his left thumb on a corner of the sheeting.
8 Nov	Castlemaine	Fractured right foot	Backhoe operator dropped a bucket on another employee's foot.
8 Nov	Altona	Lacerated finger	Employee sanding fascia received a splinter in his finger that required removal and stitches.
8 Nov	Cranbourne	Broken wrist	Employee doing drainage work in a trench slipped.
9 Nov	Wallan	Fractured right tibia	Contractor nailing a frame to ground with a nail gun and shot a nail into the rear of his right ankle.
9 Nov	Melbourne	Near miss	Old steel 50mm natural gas pipe leaked when it was shifted while an excavator operator was moving some footing.
12 Nov	Melbourne	Injured back	Contract form worker fell approximately 3m to the ground.
12 Nov	Mill Park	Near miss	Employee installing power pole with a backhoe when the wind blew it over and landed on a car.
12 Nov	Melbourne	Near miss	Employee fixing reinforced steel had 4 lengths of steel (approximately 2m in length) slip past a rubber buffer and fall 15-17m to deck below.
12 Nov	Laverton	Lacerated chin	Contract rigger assisting fit rail protection screens when the bar he was using slipped and hit him in the chin.
12 Nov	Frankston	Near miss	Employee on single storey roof with no fall protection.
12 Nov	Surrey Hills	Partial amputated left middle finger and fractured left fingers	Employee using cutting machine missed the bluestone.
13 Nov	Ballarat	Injured eye	Contract plumber cutting piece of copper with angle grinder and despite wearing safety goggles he received copper shards in eye.
13 Nov	Ballarat	Lacerated right arm	Employee pulling cable through cable tray when cable and right arm slipped, hitting adjacent cable tray.
13 Nov	Ballarat	Lacerated	Contract plumber cutting pipe with small grinder and was

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		thumb	in an awkward position when the grinder caught on pipe and jumped back hitting worker's left thumb, cutting it through gloves.
13 Nov	Southbank	Suspected broken jaw	Employee squashed his jaw between the hand rail of scissor lift and adjacent timber harding. Possible he was climbing over the railing of the scissor lift and knocked the controls at the time.
13 Nov	Parkville	Near miss	A pre-cast panel rolled over slightly from an A-frame and against skid board in loading bay. The tailing crane was connected to panel at one end and a strap was connected to the other end on panel and truck.
13 Nov	Jacana	Near miss	Contractor putting down piles for retaining wall when auger hit an unmarked natural gas feedline going into the meter.
13 Nov	Watsonia	Fractured right wrist and bruised right ribs	Employee constructing formwork fell approximately 1.5m to the ground and slid down an embankment sustaining injuries.
13 Nov	Collingwood	Bruised hip and right side.	Employee walking in a ceiling space not wearing a harness and fell through the ceiling 4m to ground floor.
13 Nov	Truganina	Punctured left index finger	Employee nailing timber to a box frame fired a nail gun through the timber and the nail came through the timber hitting his left index finger.
13 Nov	Pakenham	Near miss	A concrete slab poured approximately two weeks earlier was having final cable stress performed and a previously tensioned set had an anchor block split and an uncontrolled release of tensioned cables.
14 Nov	White Hills	Internal bleeding and lacerated hand	Intoxicated member of the public entered a domestic site and fell off a partially-built stairwell landing on the floor below
14 Nov	Brunswick	Head injury	Employee struck on the head by a piece of steel that fell approximately 6m off a scaffold.
14 Nov	Melbourne	Near miss	Formwork u-head was loosened and fell into loading zone.
14 Nov	Southbank	Broken ankle	Employee was plastering when he fell off a running stool.
14 Nov	Morwell	Near miss	Grader going around public roundabout had an axle snap, causing a wheel to come off and roll down the road hitting a parked car.
14 Nov	Camberwell	Lacerated left hand	Employee carrying some timber trusses when one caught on something causing his left hand to catch onto a gang plate.
15 Nov	Ferntree Gully	Torn right bicep	Employee standing on ladder helping to support a beam that had been lifted up. A second ladder supporting the beam fell and hit his ladder causing it to also fall. Using his right arm to hang from something (it's unknown what) he tried to prevent the beam from landing on his colleague below.
15 Nov	Pakenham	Torn muscle and skin	Bobcat operator placed a smudge bar attachment in an upright position instead of flat on ground and it fell over

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			hitting a contractor.
15 Nov	Laverton	Lacerated left knuckle	Contractor cutting a roofing sheet with pair of tin snips which slipped and left index finger caught on roof sheeting.
15 Nov	Lara	Lacerated leg	Apprentice roofer stepped and missed the iron, instead putting his leg through the sisalation and striking sheet of iron.
16 Nov	Geelong	Lacerated right hand	Joiner walking down hallway on building site carrying a toolbox and hit a wall bracket with the outside of his right hand.
16 Nov	Blackburn	Suspected spinal injury	Employee rolling out insulation for roofing when he slipped and fell approximately 2.4m landing on the front porch.
16 Nov	Burwood	Near miss	Carpenters working on fourth floor when a piece of 4mx3m timber fell down onto third floor narrowly missing other employees.
16 Nov	Keysborough	Fatal heart attack	Contractor cutting PCV pipe with handsaw.
16 Nov	Preston	Injured ribs	Employee sustained rib injuries when a pack of glass shifted within a shipping container during the unloading process
16 Nov	Melbourne	Near miss	Toilet door left in contact with a 500W spotlight caused a fire to burn through one skin of the door creating a hole with 75mmx50mm dimensions.
16 Nov	West Melbourne	Near miss	Six-tonne crawler crane was being set up on site to move formwork. The operator was moving the boom when the cable sheared and the hook dropped approximately 2.5m.
16 Nov	Fairfield	Bruised ribs	Concrete agitator truck overturned onto its right side after striking a parked car.
16 Nov	Point Cook	Electric shock	Employee installing a finish product for the ceiling when a loose lead touched his elbow.
16 Nov	Bacchus Marsh	Bruised right hand	Employee lifted a piece of concrete and dropped it into his right hand.

Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
7 Nov	Mining	Near miss	Dredger digging at face dislodged large lump of coal which fell to second terrace.
7 Nov	Mining	Near miss	Canter truck rolled over onto its side whilst using ahiab crane to lift load.
12 Nov	Mining	Near miss	Fire on a concrete truck underground.