

# Reported incidents

## SEPTEMBER 2012

In the first two weeks of September, there were 60 incidents reported to WorkSafe in the manufacturing, logistics, meat, food, agriculture and retail/trade industries.

These include 14 fractures, 14 lacerations, five electric shocks, four finger tip amputations and two fatalities.

Date	Location	Industry	Injury	Incident description
3 September	NORTH MELBOURNE	Cleaning	Laceration to thumb	Worker was taking a glass rod from a container. It was broken and she received a deep cut on her thumb. Surgery required.
	MOORABBIN	Retail	Laceration to four fingers of right hand	Contractor worker was at a customer's premises. He was lifting a bench fridge over the counter when sharp edges on the fridge lacerated the fingers on his right hand.
	BROADMEADOWS	Retail	Unknown	Fire at the rear of the store. Owners using a gas camping stove with gas cylinder inside the building.
	FERNTREE GULLY	Retail	Fatality	N/A
	DANDENONG SOUTH	Logistics	Fractured right middle and ring fingers	Worker caught his right hand and fractured his middle and ring fingers.
	BRAESIDE	Logistics	Near miss	Operator was loading a pallet into the third level, the rear backrest caught the pallet on the next level up, causing the load to tilt and fall from about six metres. Boxes of metal components fell.
4 September	SUTHERLANDS CREEK	Agriculture	Fatality	Worker was using shearing equipment and fell backwards and hit his head on a steel bar that is a part of the shearing equipment.
	SPRINGVALE NORTH	Logistics	Laceration left hand index finger	Machine operator was moving a piece of equipment on a trolley when equipment picked up sharp edge and lacerated finger.
	WARRNAMBOOL	Meat	Lacerated left ring finger	Worker lacerated his left ring finger with his knife while cutting some meat. Stitches required.
	ALTONA	Logistics	Fractured left arm	Worker was fixing a high powered exit gate when his left arm got jammed by the gate. Sustained a fractured left arm.
	CONDAH	Agriculture	Right hand fracture	Dairy farm worker was locking the cows in when the cows backed into the gate and jammed his right hand resulting in a fracture of the hand.
5 September	TRUGANINA	Logistics	Near miss	Six crates weighing six kgs each fell six metres to ground in a pick location.
	KEILOR EAST	Logistics	Electric shock	Worker was unloading a truck and took something off a truck and got an electric shock.
	FLINDERS	Cleaning	Burns to right forearm	Worker was cleaning the hot plate in the kitchen when the cleaning chemical he was using (citro-clean) ignited.
	DERRIMUT	Logistics	Crushed chest	Worker was crushed between two trucks. One of the trucks started to roll and as he attempted to jump in to stop the truck it collided into another truck.

	SOUTH YARRA	Cleaning (food)	Caustic soda burn to eye and possible loss of vision	Worker was cleaning top of stove with liquid stored on shelf. He tipped some into bucket, tried to cover face w/ tea towel but the caustic soda splashed into face.
	HOLMESGLEN	Logistics	Near miss	Forklift was moving a timber pack when it hit a rubbish bin, tearing plastic straps from outside of pack causing timber to spill onto the ground.
	MELBOURNE	Logistics	Near miss	About six empty, 40 foot shipping containers blew down in high winds. The highest one fell about 10 metres.
	DERRIMUT	Logistics	Mild concussion	Driver was opening the rear gate on his truck when the wind caught one of the truck doors and struck the driver on the head.
	CHELTHENHAM		Fracture to left thumb	Three grave digging staff were preparing a vault grave. When removing one of the concrete lid covers, a worker became unbalanced and slipped, causing the lid cover to crush his left hand.
6 September	SOUTH DANDENONG	Logistics	Near miss	A beam of the pallet racking lifted out of the socket that it locks into and as a result some of stock that was situated on top of a pallet in the racking has fell about three metres.
	SUNSHINE	Manufacturing	Electric shock	Worker isolated the mill and was doing a change over. One hand was holding a spanner and the other hand made contact to a cable detector plate and felt a shock.
7 September	CASTLEMAINE	Cleaning	Electric shock	Worker was moving some equipment (emulsifier) to clean it, when he received an electric shock.
	SOUTH MELBOURNE		Electric shock	A worker received an electric shock while testing the fire sprinkler system which involved flushing the system with water.
	BROADMEADOWS	Logistics	Near miss	A shed roller door for truck deliveries malfunctioned. The team leader was at the control to open roller door about 15 meters away from the door. As the door has come down one side slid down to the ground and the other side was still attached.
	SEYMOUR	Meat	Laceration right knee	Abattoir worker placed meat onto a hook when he has bent down and knocked his right knee.
	MYRTLEFORD	Agriculture	Near miss	Tractor caught fire, damaging a nearby shed.
	LARA	Logistics	Near miss	Metal sheets on a hanger roof came loose and were found flying across the site. due to high winds.
	SOUTHBANK	Retail	Mild electric shock	Worker received a mild electric shock while cleaning ice cream station fridge.
10 September	DONCASTER	Retail	Laceration	Worker received a laceration to his hand requiring stitches while unloading bed from a vehicle.
	SOUTHBANK	Logistics	Injured left shoulder and back	Driver was stepping backwards off the truck and fell about one metre onto the concrete ground landing on his left shoulder and back.
	SHEPPARTON	Cleaning	Fractured nose	Cleaner was taking rubbish out to the dump master in the service road and tripped over the hump in the road. Landed on her face and fractured her nose.
	PORT MELBOURNE	Logistics	Lacerations to head	Worker was driving a work ute along an internal roadway, opposite the gate-house when it collided with a skel trailer that was parked against a wall.
	PORT MELBOURNE	Logistics	Small lacerations to face	A worker was driving a ute on private shipping yard roads, checking on containers. He crashed into the front of a standard truck trailer that was parked on the side of the roadway where it was not meant to be.

	MELBOURNE	Logistics	Near miss	A truck driver exiting a site from the lower basement missed a gear and his tray truck rolled back in to the base of the scaffold. One bay of the scaffold collapsed.
	COBRAM	Logistics	Fractured hip	Worker stepped up to enter cabin of truck and lost footing and fell backwards.
	NORTH GEELONG	Logistics	Lacerated left hand	Worker was strapping a pallet and cut his left hand which became infected.
	YARRAVILLE	Logistics	Lacerated finger	Worker was changing the tines on a forklift and as he was putting them on his finger caught.
	KNOXFIELD	Manufacturing	Tip of little finger severed	Worker was on the robot line at end feed and has had tip of her little finger severed off.
	DANDENONG SOUTH	Logistics	Near miss	While a pallet of materials was being taken out of the steel storage racking by a forklift truck the plastic strapping tape holding the materials onto the pallet got caught on the steel storage racking structure. This caused a car bonnet in cardboard packaging to fall and land on top of the forklift truck.
<b>11 September</b>	HEATHERTON	Logistics	Near miss	Pallet containing fridges. As the forklift was preparing for side unloading on the truck, the forklift made contact with another pallet containing a fridge and the pallet fell through to the other side of the truck.
	NATHALIA	Cleaning	Unspecified eye injury	Worker was hosing clean an area with hot water and the hose flicked hot water at 82 degrees into his eye.
	BALLARAT	Manufacturing	Extent of injuries unknown	Worker caught in packaging machine.
	NORTH SUNSHINE	Logistics	Fractures and crushing injuries to both feet	While standing around, a forklift driver was run over by another forklift that reversed over his feet.
	WARRAGUL	Cleaning	Needle stick injury	Worker was cleaning a car, preparing for scrapping. Made contact with a used syringe.
	OAKLEIGH	Retail	Cut to webbing of left thumb	Customer service assistant in timberyard cutting strapping off pallet of timber. He used a bit too much force and once the strapping gave way his safety knife followed through and he severely cut the webbing of his thumb.
	KENSINGTON	Logistics	Fractured right tibia and crushing injury and compound fracture of left foot	Two workers were checking glass panels in storage when a sheet fell on them.
	MULGRAVE	Logistics	Fracture to left elbow	Transport worker fell off the back off a semi-trailer landing awkwardly on his elbow (left).
	EAST TULLAMARINE	Logistics	Crushed right hand	Contractor was operating a container on a side load trailer, and his right hand became caught between the container and a twist lock, resulting in a crushing injury to the right hand.
	NORTH SUNSHINE	Logistics	Possible two broken legs plus other injuries	Worker was struck by a reversing forklift truck at the workplace.
	CLAYTON SOUTH	Manufacturing	Fracture to right hand little finger	Worker received a fracture to his little finger when he was pushing bread on a conveyor line to clear the line to operate the sensor.
<b>12 September</b>	THOMASTOWN	Manufacturing	Crushed finger tip index left hand	Worker put his hand into the mill rollers while they were operating. He hit the safety bar to get his hand out.

	TIMBOON	Logistics	Amputation to tip of index finger left hand	An apprentice was fitting a tow bar to a vehicle and put his finger through the mount and bolt hole and then has let go of bar which has dropped. The scissoring action took the tip of index finger on left hand.
	WARRNAMBOOL	Meat	Laceration to right knee	Worker was boning a quarter of beef when his knife caught on a piece of beef cartilage. He applied more pressure on his knife causing the knife to slip and stabbed himself in the right knee.
	DANDENONG	Logistics	Near miss	Forklift was placing pallet on racking when it tipped forward and continued to tip as driver tried to reverse to rectify the situation.
	WEST MELBOURNE	Agriculture	Extent of injuries unknown	Worker was on a cage carrying stock when he slipped on the railing and fell off.
	WANGARATTA		Base of a thumb cut off	An apprentice was working with a 'verti-drain' which aerates the grass on the back of a tractor. The steel lid of the verti-drain fell on his thumb cutting off the base of his thumb.
	DANDENONG SOUTH		Laceration to head and severity of shoulder injuries still undetermined	A worker was unloading a truck, went to stand on the tines, unclipped a hook and slipped and landed on the tines.