

Notified incidents

11 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
24 August	MORNINGTON	Near miss	Crew pulling a 600 mm fibre glass sewer pipe through a borehole within a trench, when the chain snapped/let go and flew into the shoring box and narrowly missed two workers standing nearby.
	MELBOURNE PARK	Near miss	Excavator struck a gas service line resulting in a gas leak. Gas line repaired by a service contractor. Energy Safe Victoria attended to inspect the line.
	ROXBOROUGH PARK	Head injury, coma	Apprentice had been installing solar panels, has fallen between 1m-1.5m while coming down ladder. He was taken to hospital where he is in a coma.
	HORSHAM	Electric shock	Worker, 18, was removing power points from a redundant building thought that they had been isolated.
	FLEMINGTON PARADE, MELBOURNE	Possible Hep A and Hep B exposure	An employee and three contractors have been exposed to waste water (possible blood contamination) while cutting waste pipes at a construction site.
27 August	BAYSWATER	Broken bone in the hand	Employee was drilling holes in a steel base when the drill has caught and twisted in hand.
	RICHMOND	Near miss	Plasterers had been working on scaffold in previous week. They had left an off-cut of plaster approx 1mx1m on the scaffold. An employee dislodged it and it has fallen to the ground approx 3-4 levels. Fell beside an employee walking past.
	KEILOR DOWNS	Fatality to member of public	Incident was a member of the public riding a motorbike who collided with a skid steer, resulting in fatality. The work being undertaken was a curb and channel and footpath work.
	HIGHETT	Laceration to middle finger on right hand	A 40 year old male employee was operating a spindle saw when he accidentally brushed his finger against the blade.
	DANDENONG SOUTH	Laceration to finger	Employee, 19, was cutting a piece of aluminium with angle grinder, and has struck finger causing an injury.
	COLAC	Near miss	A mobile plant with the boom in a travelling position was travelling down the road when the boom touched the 22000 volt power lines.
	NORADJUHA	Near miss	An excavator wads being unloaded from float when on one of the tracks malfunctioned. During reloading excavator has overturned.
	ALTONA	Bruises to back and forearm.	EWP and a Forklift collided at an intersection.
	HAWTHORN	Possible fractured leg or ankle	Employee has fallen or landed awkwardly from a 1.5mt high scaffold.
	DOCKLANDS	Near miss	Materials hoist was at level 5 and came into contact with some materials causing the pipe support and gates of the hoist to dislodge.
	CLAYTON	Ligament damage to both knees	Crane driver was exiting the crane cabin and as he stepped back while on ground level he tripped and fell.
28 August	MARKET ST	Fracture to leg	Carpenter was putting cladding on wall. He was on approx 3rd rung and has fallen from ladder.
	BREAKWATER	Laceration across fingers (left hand)	Contractor, 24, was on site replacing glass, he was moving along the side of his truck when he suddenly moved to avoid a passerby, when he scraped his hand along a large piece of broken glass that was on the truck.
	COLAC	Near miss	A forklift driver delivering brick to building reversed in alfresco area and dislodged the post holding the roof. There was a partial collapse of the roof and it landed balanced onto the forklift (approx 1 metre).

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	DIAMOND CREEK	Gas leak. No injuries.	The crew first dug a water main ditch by hand, after detecting a buried pipe, then the machine digging hit a second undetected gas pipe causing a leak.
	DOVETON	loss of consciousness, broken neck and dislocated fingers	Solar panel installer, 24, moving tiles on a roof. Went to pull back a tile, missed and fell backwards onto carport roof and went through roof (approx 2.6 metres) onto the ground.
	CAMPBELLFIELD	Forearm abrasion	Interaction between forklift and pedestrian at intersection with forklift making light contact to pedestrian's right forearm resulting in minor abrasion.
	WENDOUREE	Laceration to left hand	Steel fabricator, using an angle grinder, lowered angle grinder onto the ground, put hand on wrong part of machine.
	MITCHAM	Electric Shock	Sub contractor received an electric shock while plugging an extension lead into a power board, it is believed he may have been touching one of the pins on extension lead.
	OAKLEIGH	Consumption of turpentine - taken to hospital for observation then released.	A 61 year old male employee drank about a mouthful of turpentine from a bottle marked turpentine thinking it was his water bottle which was on the same work table.
	CANTERBURY	Near miss	Construction work was being done on a school site with temporary fencing around the site. Glass panes had not had silicone to fix it and the high winds have caused a pane of glass to break from the facade fall approx 5 meters within the fencing .
	DOCKLANDS	Near miss	Small piece of LVL timber 15cm x 9cm x 5cm has fallen from an unknown height, landing on the top of the canopy.
30 August	DEVON MEADOWS	Spinal injuries	Worker, 55, fell off two milk crates he was standing on.
	BRIDGEWATER	Laceration to left hand	Contractor was performing a downward cut on a steel cleat with a 125 ml grinder, when the blade was jammed and caused it to fly out of his hands, and cut the webbing on his left hand.
	DOCKLANDS	Near miss	Scaffold tube has fallen from level 14 to level 10 through the duct riser shaft. Two employees were in the shaft on installing air-conditioning duct work in Level 10, the tubing has narrowly missed them.
	FOOTSCRAY	Laceration between little finger on right hand	Employee, 37, was engaged in steel tying reo bar together when he lacerated his hand on a piece of reo bar.
	HIGHTON	Injury to ribs	Brick layer, 50, was working at rear of construction. Full details of how he was injured unknown, but it appears he has fallen onto some timber.
	PRAHRAN	Stress fracture to left ankle	Worker, 51, was cleaning up and lengths of timber on site when he stepped back on a length of timber and rolled his left ankle.
	ALBERT PARK	Fractured ankle	Plasterer on site fell of a step ladder, and landed awkwardly on his left ankle. Employee is said to have fallen from about 1 metre.
	DIAMOND CREEK	Near miss	When laying a new water main a worker hit gas pipe with a matic causing a small rupture in a pipe causing gas leak lasting approx 2 minutes until crimped. Was then repaired.
	CHELtenham.	Electric shock to right arm.	Apprentice, 20, was working on a ladder within a shop, changing faulty transformers, when he came into contact with the bare copper conductor.
	MELBOURNE	Fume inhalation	Contractors were using RockStar Natural Finish Stone Sealer (which is a Haz Substance/DG Class 3) which caused fumes to leak through the air vents and into different parts of the building causing employees to become sick. An evacuation was held of the building.
	KNOXFIELD	Right leg burn - electric shock	Worker was operating a jack hammer when the electrical lead on the jack hammer gave him an electric shock.
	TRARALGON	Fractured three ribs	Male was skidding down from the dozer and his right hand slipped causing him to fall hitting side of dozer onto the hydraulic ram.
	BROOKLYN	Electric shock	Employee was using a welder, and has attempted to change a fuse, and received an electric shock.

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	TAYLORS HILL	Fractured left ankle	Painter was using a ladder to paint windows (inside a private house). He placed a drop sheet on the tiles and then placed the ladder on top of the drop sheet. As he started to climb up, ladder slipped, he jumped down.
3 September	PORT FAIRY	Near miss	Excavator ruptured a live gas main while digging a trench to install a water main.
4 September	TRARALGON SOUTH	Near miss	Workmen were on the 19th floor using a 4 inch angle grinder on piping. One of them placed the grinder on the pipe and it has slipped off the pipe, falling down the duct work until the lead stopped it as was caught up between the 19th & 15th floor (no flooring between these floors and did not hit the floor on 15th.) The area below was already taped off due to the work being done above. No one was in the area.
5 September	MELBOURNE	Near miss	Due to the winds: two pieces of aluminium flashing (3.5 metres) have come off the roof of a building and have fallen approximately 3-4 metres. Pieces fell nearby members of the public.
	PRESTON	Eye injury	Worker was re lugging a cable that had a copper oxide build up. While stripping the cable to see if the oxide build up had made its way up the cable some copper oxide dust flicked into his eye.
	SALE	Near miss	Excavator hit a gas main. The area is evacuated and preserved waiting for utility company.
	HAZELWOOD	Near miss	An external glass light cover dislodged in high winds smashing on a grid mat and pieces fell to the level below where employees were working.
	MELBOURNE	Near miss	A metal base plate 100M X 100M fell from above and landed on level 3 it could of come from level 4-5-6 a worker on level 3 heard an object fall onto a the terrace.
	MORWELL	Near miss	Laser light roof sheeting was stacked on a pallet in a yard and weighed down, the wind has picked it up and pushed it out into the lay down area. Estimate of about 10 sheets.
	WENDOUREE	Deep bruising to right leg requiring surgery	Worker was dismantling a boom section of a crane which was placed on forklift tines and slipped off and hit his right leg, resulting in deep bruising..
	BALWYN NORTH	Suspected rotator cuff injury	Owner of domestic building under construction was walking to his other house at the rear of the property fell on the pathway near the nature strip.
	YALLOURN	Near miss	Fire started on upper coal level and spread quickly in windy conditions.
	RICHMOND	Near miss	High winds blew 2 sheets of ply (2.4 x 1.2 12mm thick) off a hoarding (scaffold gantry) and landed on Elizabeth Street. No injuries. Traffic management has handled the situation.
6 September	MALVERN	Splinter imbedded to back of right hand requiring medical treatment	Plumber was installing hydronic pipe work when he hit his hand on some timber and received a wooden splinter to the back of his right hand.
	EAST GIPPSLAND	Lacerations to the right shoulder (back)	Worker was loading earth moving equipment into floats. While latching the excavator, a gust of wind blew and a tree approx 2.4 metres high fell and made contact with the employee.
	KEW	Electric shock	Plumbing contractor received an electric shock when he was working on a hot water service within a cupboard. The power on the unit was not isolated and came into contact with water that was live. Contractor states that he was stuck to the unit for 10 seconds, an ambulance has been called to site. He received an exit wound to his left arm.
	WENDOUREE	Fractured left foot	Employee, 26, walked into an exclusion zone where an excavator was working and the operator did not see him and drove into his foot.
	CRAIGIEBURN	Near miss	Ten formwork frames have been blown over due to the high winds last night.
	BURRUMBEET	Dizziness	Employee was operating an 8 tonne excavator, he complained of dizziness and exhaust fumes in cabin.

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Mining

Date	Industry	Injury	Incident description
21/08/2012	PETROLEUM	Fractured leg	An employee was climbing down a fixed ladder when they fell approx 2 metres from the ladder.
22/08/2012	MINE	Lacerated hand	A contractor using a sanding grinder which slipped when facing a plastic pipe ready to be joined - struck back of hand.
29/08/2012	CHEMS & PLASTICS	Blow to head, loss of consciousness	Employee was measuring the temperature in the back of the machines. Hit his head on the casing of a drive shaft.
29/08/2012	MINE	Electric shock	Employee checking equipment that wasn't working, when touched the E-Stop received an electric shock. The E-Stop has been replaced, item of equipment is isolated.
29/08/2012	MINE	Neck injury	Employee sampling face of mine had a football size piece of clay fall on her hard hat from approx 2 metres.
30/08/2012	MINE	Fractured three ribs	Skidding down from side of dozer fell onto hydraulic ram and broke 3 ribs.
31/08/2012	MINE	Near miss	Operator using a loader to clean the formation next to dredger. Caught discharge boom access steps with the corner of the blade - steps damaged beyond use.