

Notified incidents

July 3, 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 69 incidents, serious enough to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria, from the construction, utility, quarrying and mining industries. Below is a summary of these incidents.

Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
June 18		
Southbank	Near miss	Length of steel fell from crane during lift.
East Hawthorn	Near miss	Worker severed electrical wire while cutting through ceiling plasterboard.
June 19		
Doreen	Lacerated leg	Worker installing air conditioning components in roof slipped and struck gang plate when the noggin he was standing on gave way.
Laverton	Near miss	Boring crew struck a gas service while working on water main.
Wantirna	Back injury	Member of public hit by trusses that slipped off a truck during unloading.
Bairnsdale	Near miss	Excavator contacted power lines when being operated by field service mechanic.
Broadmeadows	Ankle injury	Worker carrying bucket of rubbish slipped on rubble when he stepped from a concrete slab on to unmade ground.
Big Hill	Suspected electric shock	Worker reported a 'tingle' while using an electric sander. The sander was found to have a crack in the handle.
Doreen	Lacerated hand	Worker sustained injury when he picked up an off-cut from guttering.
Caulfield North	Suspected back injury	Scaffolder hit by a piece of concrete thrown over a wall by a worker clearing up rubble.
Bendigo	Crush injuries	Contractor crushed between an outrigger and the truck body of a concrete pump.
Werribee	Near miss	Gas service struck during boring for a new water main.
June 20		
Kilmore East	Fractured arm and ribs	Contractor hooking up the dolly of his truck was trapped between the dolly and a crane, when the

Notified incidents

		brakes on the dolly released and the dolly rolled back.
Woodhouse	Crush injury to foot	Rigger was relocating a bog mat when a lifting point gave way and came down on his foot.
Melbourne	Electric shock	Worker was installing a projector in a ceiling.
Dandenong	Fractured thumb	Worker was lifting equipment onto a truck. He slipped on muddy ground and jammed his thumb.
Costerfield	Chemical burns to wrist and body	Worker using grouting cement received chemical burns where he came into contact with the cement.
June 21		
Camberwell	Near miss	A piece of ply blew off a first storey gantry and hit a car in the street below.
Melbourne	Near miss	A piece of reo fell four levels.
Maffra	Electric shock	Two workers received electric shocks while changing valves in the wet well of a sewer system. Apparently a fault at a nearby power pole caused earth to be broken.
Doncaster	Finger injury	Worker was using a belt sander. When he stopped to converse, his other hand contacted the belt while he was still pressing the trigger.
Victoria Harbour	Near miss	An off cut of a bolt fell two levels, striking an employee on his hard hat without causing injury and then landed on a scaffold deck.
June 22		
Connewarre	Fractured wrist	Plastering contractor fell off trestles.
Port Melbourne	Lacerated hand	Contractor operating an angle grinder.
Mentone	Fractured finger	Supervisor cleaning up at the end of the day slipped while he was lifting fittings onto a truck and trapped a finger between two fittings.
Ballarat	Fractured foot	Worker was winching a beam onto a false car. The winch hook slipped and the beam dropped on his foot.
Laverton	Near miss	Backhoe ruptured gas line while laying new water mains.
Altona	Near miss	Gas service struck while a water main was being dug up for servicing.

Notified incidents

Doncaster	Head injury	Worker installing cabinets struck his head when reacting to his finger being jammed.
Parkville	Near miss	Worker reported a burning smell during grinding work in a riser.
June 25		
Mitcham	Near miss	Steel cog dislodged from an Alimak and fell from level four to level one.
Ouyen	Near miss	Fire in scrapper engine.
Stanhope	Jaw injury	Swift lift has dropped and hit worker while an excavator was lifting a concrete pit into a channel.
June 26		
Beaumaris	Finger injury	Apprentice nailing timber with nail gun, shot a nail into his finger.
Lorne	Near miss	Soil and rock has slipped behind a retaining wall during excavation.
Richmond	Burn to hand	Forklift operator was in process of changing gas bottle. Gas leaked when the bottle didn't connect properly.
Laverton	Near miss	Gas leak during bursting work on water main. Gas pipe lying across the main did not have the correct clearance. The main's crack-head caught and damaged the gas pipe.
June 27		
Box Hill	Near miss	Excavator pierced gas pipe, while replacing trench shield.
South Oakleigh	Fatality	Sixty-four-year old worker fell off roof during site clean up.
Keysborough	Bruising	Worker was standing on a stair void platform system when it collapsed.
Berrybank	Head injury	Worker hit by falling branch during tree work on a rail corridor.
Gisborne	Unknown injuries	Engineer drove into stationary vehicle.
Keysborough	Electric shock	Contractor was checking underground power line currents. He received a shock when he learnt against a generator being used to send current down the line

Notified incidents

		for testing.
Parkville	Near miss	Crane hit scaffold blank which fell 10m into the drop zone.
June 28		
Doreen	Head injury	Contractor fell from frame during framing work on house.
Southbank	Near miss	Concreters were pumping concrete into columns when one exploded. Debris fell into the drop zone and walkway.
Melbourne	Fractured elbow	Worker was cutting a duct out of a ceiling. The duct swung out and knocked him off the scaffold.
Epsom	Knee injury	Worker putting up sign slipped going up steps.
Caulfield South	Head and hand injury	Worker at the workplace was hit by a glass panel which fell out of a frame. It has been installed that morning.
Tarneit	Lacerated hand	Contractor was cutting timber with a power saw. He grabbed the timber while the blade was still running and contacted the blade.
Southbank	Near miss	Scaffold clip fell from scaffolding and glanced off the helmet of a contractor working below.
Ivanhoe	Finger injuries	Nail went through fingers of an apprentice using a nailgun during fit out work.
June 29		
Melbourne	Near miss	Two planks dropped from a scaffold stillage being lifted by a crane. Planks fell approx 12m.
Melbourne	Near miss	During works to lay water mains under bridges, the excavator operator lifted the bucket to move an obstacle. The boom hit a bridge causing concrete to fall off.
Panmure	Fractured leg	An 18-year-old worker, working off roof battens, slipped off the roof when he moved to the side where sheeting had been installed.
Rockbank	Lacerated finger	Worker cut his finger while adjusting the seat on a company vehicle he was driving.
Bentleigh	Fractured ankle	Contractor was de-watering a shaft when a lump of cement was pulled into the vacuum and struck him on

Notified incidents

		the foot.
Yallourn	Crush injury to thumb	Two workers were using a crowbar to push a pipe to connect it to a branch. It kicked up and caught the thumb of one of the workers between the pipe and crowbar.
Waurin Ponds	Near miss	Aluminium sheet blew out of a worker's hand on the fourth level of a site.
Lilydale	Lacerated thumb	Worker was putting an old bin into a skip with another worker. He squashed his thumb between the bin and the skip.
Mining		
Hazelwood	Minor head injury	Worker on a dredger, and wearing a hard hat, was struck by a piece of slurry.
Yallourn	Near miss	During the process of isolating a HB feeder fault, a ceramic insulator separated from a cross arm and fell approx 10m, missing an operator by approx 1m.
Settlement	Finger injury	Worker was checking the alternator on mobile plant. He put his hand into the belt without isolating the motor.
Yallourn	Near miss	A section of conveyor being cut by an extended oxy/acetylene torch moved towards a worker before dropping in the planned spot.
Mount Clear	Near miss	Heat from a delaminated tyre on an underground truck caused the tyre to smoulder internally.
Yallourn	Lacerated thumb	Belt worker was putting a bar under a repair line table. One end of the slipped onto his thumb during lifting.
Hazelwood	Near miss	A piece of metal fell off from the gantry rail and landed 1m from a worker.
Costerfield	Neck and arm injury	Worker had just removed the pusher leg from the hang wall when a rock fell, hit him on the helmet and arm.
Stawell	Burn to hand	Electrician received a flash burn when he was resetting a circuit breaker.