

Reported incidents

26 February 2013

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox there have been 87 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
11 Feb	Melbourne	Broken right wrist	Employee walked through a door marked 'not to be used' and tripped over a contractor's paint tray, then fell into another employee who also fell over.
11 Feb	Ballarat	Near miss	Employee preparing rendering was applying metal bead by tapping it in. One bead pushed in too far and cut through an electrical wire behind a control box, causing a spark.
11 Feb	Geelong	Lacerated leg	Employee moving material out of ute lost balance and fell against some racking.
11 Feb	Malvern	Broken ankle	Concrete truck struck it's shute on a small free-standing column which then partially collapsed, hitting a man on the left leg.
11 Feb	Frankston	Bruised ribs	Man fell across a small step ladder while removing asbestos.
11 Feb	Phillip Island	Lacerated right arm	Employee was painting while walking down a spiral staircase and slipped.
11 Feb	Bundoora	Head injury	Man installing roof truss fell approximately 3m off roof.
11 Feb	Frankston	Fractured right elbow	Contractor standing on a ladder and accessing a balcony when a genie lift hit his ladder and he fell approximately 3m to the ground.
11 Feb	Dandenong	Lacerated finger	Man working on a grinder when his hand caught and the grinder cut through his glove to his finger.
12 Feb	Bairnsdale	Near miss	Civil contractors struck a domestic gas line during excavation works.
12 Feb	Mornington Peninsula	Lacerated left thumb	Employee using an electric plane, slipped and cut off the tip of his thumb.
12 Feb	Dandenong	Torn left knee cap	Employee walking to traffic management vehicle tripped over a tree root sticking out of the ground.
12 Feb	Gippsland	Lacerated left knee	Man building shed when the wind picked up and a 1m long piece of tin hit his leg.
12 Feb	Glen Eira	Lacerated left hand	Employee operating brick saw lost concentration.
12 Feb	Bright	Near miss	Truck and trailer carrying a bulldozer on an unsealed road came too close to the road edge and the trailer tipped over.
13 Feb	Cranbourne	Near miss	Medium-sized rigid truck ran off road and rolled onto its side when driver was reaching for cigarettes.
13 Feb	Sandringham	Right arm and shoulder injury	Contractor moving insulation from ground floor to first floor through a void platform using a ladder and pushing insulation up through a man hole when piece of the void platform fell and struck him.
13 Feb	South Yarra	Near miss	Tower crane lifting kibble during a concrete pour on a building's sixth floor when the crane cable snapped, causing kibble to fall onto concrete truck below.

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13 Feb	Clayton	Lacerated left bicep	Glass worker trimming plastic with blade and slipped.
13 Feb	Balwyn	Lacerated right hand	Employee using power drill to screw a nogging to stud wall when drill slipped and hit his right hand.
13 Feb	Caroline Springs	Lacerated left hand	Employee hit his left hand with a drill while screwing a screw.
13 Feb	Coburg	Eye injury	Employee hit masonry nail into a concrete slab and a fragment of steel flew into his left eye.
13 Feb	South Melbourne	Punctured finger	Contract carpenter constructing sub-floor fired a nail gun and nail entered his finger, exiting through fingernail.
13 Feb	Melbourne	Electric shock	Glazier was unplugging a glass suction unit from an extension lead and received an electric shock.
14 Feb	Bentleigh	Near miss	Timber/ply ventilation penetration covers for a lift shaft were being removed by employee when a small amount of stone debris (20mm x 20mm) broke away and fell approximately 2m into the shaft.
14 Feb	Templestowe	Electric shock	Carpenter installing timber beam made contact with a fixing screw that had pierced a cable leaving the screw 'alive'.
14 Feb	Dandenong	Lacerated left knee	Employee sheeting a stainless steel pack on the ground and as he knelt he flicked a sheet that hit his left knee.
14 Feb	Baw Baw	Electric shock	Employee working underneath a dead power line, replacing a high voltage cross-arm when lightning struck in the area.
14 Feb	Yarraville	Near miss	Plaster board stack fell over and onto the ground.
14 Feb	South Melbourne	Near miss	Minor fire on site caused by welding work in basement.
14 Feb	Burnley	Broken or sprained right ankle	Employee operating excavator hurt himself while exiting the plant.
14 Feb	Melbourne	Back strain	Man carrying glass panel of unknown weight down stairs.
14 Feb	South Melbourne	Near miss	Steel bar fell from 14th floor and landed on roof of 8th floor car park. The bar had been attached with cable ties to the outside of a hoist cabin door acting as a counterweight.
14 Feb	Abbotsford	Near miss	Cranes installing precast elements on building façade when a rigger dropped a level which fell six floors onto a roof.
14 Feb	Point Cook	Fractured foot	Bricklayer was 'setting out' getting ready to brick a wall, when he fell 1.5m through a ladder access area.
15 Feb	Cranbourne	Lacerated thumb, ruptured tendon	Subcontractor over balanced on a plank about 700mm high, fell and landed on some broken glass
15 Feb	Hawthorn	Lacerated left hand	Employee using a power tool to cut steel cut the back of his hand.
15 Feb	Bentleigh	Near miss	Metal rod approximately 40mm x 8mm fell 9m off the top of a lift cage.
15 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	Glass panel fell around seven floors after a winch cable spooled while it was being lifted, and landed near people below.
15 Feb	Maribyrnong	Electric shock	Employee unplugged a lead from a scissor lift.
15 Feb	Melbourne	Lacerated hand	Employee installing steel barricades and his hand slipped.

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15 Feb	Richmond	Near miss	Employee damaged a gas line while digging a trench to renew water main.
15 Feb	Melbourne	Crushed middle and ring finger	Employee maneuvering a steel beam around a column using a telehandler when a sudden swing caught his hand.
15 Feb	South Melbourne	Near miss	Oxyacetylene cutting in basement ignited some boxes with cutting sparks, 100 people evacuated.
15 Feb	Melbourne	Swollen, bruised forearm	1.5t forklift with extension tines was being escorted by a spotter past an elevated work platform which had a boom extended approximately 2.5m when the right tine struck EWP wheel causing operator to fall over in the deck.
18 Feb	Vermont	Lacerated left leg	Contractor walked against an exposed rebar during clean-up.
18 Feb	Highbett	Near miss	Plasterers screwing lighting onto sheets when they tripped an RCD board/lighting circuit.
18 Feb	Clayton	Scald to both hands	Employee installing a hot water service when he splashed hot water on himself.
18 Feb	Blackburn	Disc protrusion in lower back.	Employee carrying scaffolding when he twisted awkwardly.
18 Feb	Mornington	Lacerated left wrist, left ring and middle fingers	Contractor electrician climbing an extension ladder that was set up on a timber deck when the ladder slipped, falling across the deck. Contractor grabbed the gutter to stop himself from falling but it broke and he fell approximately 1.8m onto decking.
18 Feb	Altona	Lacerated right wrist	Contractor using grinder when it slipped and made contact with his wrist.
18 Feb	Tullamarine	40mm splinter puncture to right forearm	Employee moving veneer boards on the back of a truck when one of the boards struck his arm.
18 Feb	Melbourne	Fatality	Employee suffered fatal injuries when he fell from a crane.
18 Feb	Geelong	Lacerated right ring finger	Employee using angle grinder when it jammed and kicked back.
18 Feb	Ballan	Lacerated fingers	Employee working on a circular saw cutting timber didn't use a push stick.
18 Feb	Brunswick	Eye injury	Stonemason apprentice dropped a bucket with lime in it, when he tried to catch it dust blew up into his face.
19 Feb	Prahran	Lacerated head	Employee fixing a downlight moved towards a rotating ceiling fan, hitting his head.
19 Feb	Mt Eliza	Electric shock, injured knee and shoulder	Contractor on ladder trying to plug a light into a ceiling put his hand into roof cavity and touched a wire, receiving a shock that made him jump off the ladder.
19 Feb	Essendon	Near miss	Water mains being laid when a domestic gas line was not in alignment and was hit during an excavation process.
19 Feb	Carlton	Lacerated right forearm	Employee installing post tensioning when he lost balance, fell backwards and cut his arm on a piece of tie wire
19 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	Piece of tubing clip fell 19 floors, workers were in the immediate vicinity.
19 Feb	Laverton	Punctured foot	Employee stepped off a repair platform and onto a nail.
19 Feb	Wimmera	Lacerated left	Employee removing nut on a bladeless circular saw with an

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		hand	allen key. His hand slipped off the emergency stop button and the saw rotated, pushing the allen key into left hand.
19 Feb	Murray Valley	Near miss	Large tip truck unloading gypsum in a driveway when tipper made contact with a 12.7kV single wire earth return.
19 Feb	Gisborne	Broken hip	Employee slipped off some steps and fell to the ground while climbing down from a crane.
20 Feb	Pakenham	Injured neck, bruised ribs	Cement agitator truck going through roundabout, clipped kerb and tipped over.
20 Feb	Caulfield	Near miss	Footpath being excavated when a gas main was ruptured.
20 Feb	Wantirna	Broken ankle	During indoor demolition work a piece of ceiling fell down and landed on an employee's foot.
20 Feb	Ivanhoe	Crushed index finger	Employee hammering a joist and accidentally hit his finger.
20 Feb	Yarraville	Lacerated right hand	Contractor fitting sheet metal to a window with a battery operated drill when the screw snapped, causing the sheet of metal to fall and strike him.
20 Feb	Ivanhoe	Strained back muscle	Employee strained his back when lifting timber.
20 Feb	Wangaratta	Near miss	Electricity mains cable hit during an excavation.
20 Feb	Ballarat	Lacerated lower right arm	Employee using crow bar and sledge hammer to erect fencing hit his arm with the crow bar.
21 Feb	Clayton	Two fractured toes	Two employees carrying a 9mm thick villa-board sheet when a wind gust lifted it out of their hands.
21 Feb	Bairnsdale	Near miss	Excavator hit gas line during road works.
21 Feb	Hallam	Lacerated right finger	Employee passing a dropper box to someone on a roof when his fingers caught on a metal part of the box.
21 Feb	Craigieburn	Lacerated left forearm tendons	Insulated stainless steel box gutters being moved into position with a 130t crane when an employee's arm caught between two box gutters.
21 Feb	Geelong	Lacerated head	Plumber emerging from trench hit his head on an excavator bucket.
22 Feb	Malvern	Near miss	Excavator ruptured a gas line on a construction site.
22 Feb	Altona	Near miss	An out-of-alignment pipe was ruptured during excavation at a water-mains site.
22 Feb	Craigieburn	Near miss	During directional drilling a d-shackle pulled on a gas pipe which then broke.
22 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	Glass sheet approximately 150mm x 600mm installed in a level 10 facade two months prior. Employees noticed crack in the glass and 30 minutes later it fell into a work zone.
22 Feb	Geelong	Lacerated right thigh	Employee rested a circular saw on his thigh.
22 Feb	Geelong	Broken right foot	Apprentice dismantling roof trusses on a house and passing them down to employees below when he lost his balance, slipped and fell 2.4m to the ground.
22 Feb	Geelong	Near miss	Subcontractor with boom extended installing PTFE fabric roofing when a hammer dropped out of the boom, landing on and breaking concrete ground.

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Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
4 Feb	Mining	Near miss	Underground water truck hit a side wall due to suspected loss of breaking system.
5 Feb	Mining	Near miss	Conveyor tail drum bearing and shaft failure, belt overheated and caught fire spreading to tail drum.