

Notified incidents

7 November 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 47 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 |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------------|---|
| 19 Oct | Sunshine | Lacerated left foot | Worker was grinding concrete with a steel cut blade which broke, striking him. Foot required eight stitches. |
| 22 Oct | Geelong | Lacerated left knee | Worker was in a box gutter on the roof. When he stood from a kneeling position his left knee came into contact with a roof sheet end. |
| 22 Oct | Geelong | Lacerated lower right leg | Contractor was putting tile off-cuts into a box and scraped his right lower leg against the pile of broken tiles. |
| 22 Oct | Docklands | Near miss | Securing bolt on a temporary structure fell from a height of about 70m and landed on the ground approximately 20m away from workers. |
| 22 Oct | Werribee | Near miss | Pile rig drilling on site when the drill became dislodged from the drive shaft and stood by itself in mid-air connected only by the hydraulics. Workers were working in area at the time. |
| 22 Oct | St Albans | Asthma attack | Non-worker walked through an area where plaster board was being sanded. Person had an asthma attack in reaction to the plaster dust. Admitted to hospital. |
| 22 Oct | Altona | Lacerated finger | Contractor was using an electric drill on steel when the drill slipped and struck the end of his finger. |
| 22 Oct | South Yarra | Broken right foot | Worker was standing on a crate when he slipped and hit the ground resulting in broken foot. |
| 22 Oct | Mulgrave | Bruised ribs | Sub-contractor was levelling concrete and slipped into the formwork causing badly bruised ribs close to lung area and was kept in hospital overnight for observation. |
| 23 Oct | Bendigo | Lacerated hand | Worker was using an angle grinder to cut aluminium when the grinder slipped back and struck his hand, requiring 30 stitches. |
| 23 Oct | Melbourne | Near miss | Worker was installing glass on a balustrade on the 15th floor when the glass shattered and fell to the ground below. |
| 23 Oct | Ashburton | Lacerated arm | Worker was removing a sash window during a property renovation when it fell apart. The glass pane broke and a shard of glass fell cutting his left arm inside the elbow. |
| 24 Oct | Richmond | Near miss | Crane truck hit tram lines while doing u-turn. |
| 24 Oct | Melbourne | Near miss | Timber hoarding fell to the ground in strong winds. |
| 24 Oct | Brighton | Lacerated right leg | Contractor stripping down formwork when right lower leg came in contact with post tension cable causing a laceration requiring seven stitches. |
| 25 Oct | South Melbourne | Near miss | Crane lifting block and work cage was pushed to the left and struck the cable guide. |
| 25 Oct | Campbellfield | Lacerated head | Worker unloading roof sheeting off vehicle roof racks when wind gusted heavily and lifted him and the tin off the roof. Fell between 2-3m. |
| 25 Oct | Box Hill | Lacerated arm | Worker was measuring out with a line when he tripped on a block on the ground and fell on a pallet of blocks. |
| 25 Oct | Highbett | Electric shock | Worker was drilling next to an electrical tray with a temporary power cable in it and he drilled into it. |
| 26 Oct | Bacchus Marsh | Near miss | Directional drill struck a 40ml poly gas line. People were evacuated and the area has since been reinstated. |
| 26 Oct | South Melbourne | Near miss | Worker threw a round object made from plastic bags and gaffer tape (15cm diameter) off level ten of construction site. The object hit a |

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| | | | vehicle driving past below and dented the roof. |
| 26 Oct | Melbourne | Near miss | Excavating bucket has penetrated an earthenware conduit, resulting in damage to a power cable. |
| 26 Oct | Maribyrnong | Near miss | Mobile crane struck a self-erecting tower, causing the counterweight of the latter crane to sit at an angle. |
| 26 Oct | Kew | Near miss | Excavator was digging and hit gas mains. Site evacuated and gas authority, fire department and police called. |
| 29 Oct | Melbourne | Near miss | Stillages containing scaffold were being lifted to the top of a three storey building when a stillage fell when the load contained inside moved and scaffolding pieces fell onto the roof of the building. |
| 29 Oct | Alphington | Lacerated arm | Contractor operating a concrete cutting saw to cut a drainage pit when the saw jammed and kicked back lacerating skin and muscle on the worker's left forearm. |
| 29 Oct | St Kilda | Lacerated left hand | Worker cutting steel with grinder that kicked back when it caught on the steel. |
| 29 Oct | Katunga | Electric shock | Worker using a petrol driven arc welder received an electric shock while touching the work. |
| 29 Oct | Frankston | Near miss | Unloading an excavator from a truck and one of the ramps was pinned incorrectly while the other ramp was not secured. The unsecured ramp fell and the excavator fell to the ground. |
| 31 Oct | Melbourne | Lacerated finger | Apprentice using drop saw to cut louvers had finished and turned machine off when he lifted his hand and his finger came into contact with the blade that had not come to a stop. |
| 31 Oct | Campbellfield | Near miss | Contractor was attempting to load an excavator onto trailer when the excavator slipped and fell sideways. |
| 31 Oct | Melbourne | Near miss | Contractor was working on plaster ceiling at building perimeter when a hammer slipped out of his hands and fell two levels. |
| 31 Oct | Highett | Near miss | Worker was putting some protection around a sub main cable and accidentally put a nail through the cable causing the power to trip and shut down on site. |
| 31 Oct | Brighton | Lacerated finger | Contractor dismantling formwork using a hammer when he misjudged the location of his middle finger, crushing and splitting his finger between the hammer and scaffolding. |
| 31 Oct | Carnegie | Near miss | Contractor cutting plastic down pipe on scaffold at level three. A piece of plastic down pipe has fallen to ground. |
| 31 Oct | Brighton | Lacerated lower leg | Contractor securing a load on a truck in loading bay when he walked into some 'L bars' that had been placed on the floor. |
| 1 Nov | Melbourne | Near miss | Double glazed window and frame fell from position from level 19 to tram lines below. |
| 1 Nov | Melbourne | Near miss | A small hook fell about six metres to street level from a tower crane as it was lowering a load. |
| 1 Nov | Melbourne | Near miss | Worker stripping formwork on level one when a piece of timber dislodged and fell into a nearby laneway. |
| 1 Nov | Melbourne | Lacerated index finger | Worker using a combination saw has gripped the wrong end. |
| 1 Nov | Rosebud | Lacerated right index finger | Worker crushed right hand between a plank of wood and a slab of concrete when plank was dropped from an unknown height. |
| 1 Nov | Camberwell | Lacerated hand | Worker was in process of fitting weatherboards using a stanley knife which has struck him in the hand. |
| 1 Nov | Carrum Downs | Lacerated fingers | Worker cutting timber with a rip saw when timber jammed on the blade and flicked up, lacerating all the fingers on his left hand. |
| 2 Nov | Bundoora | Electric shock | Contractor was moving a light fitting when he received an electric shock. |
| 2 Nov | Balwyn | Lacerated left thumb | Apprentice was using a stanley knife to open a plastic bag when it slipped, cutting his finger. |

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| 2 Nov | Frankston | Fractured foot | Scissor lift operator rolled the scissor lift forward onto an worker's foot. |
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Mining

| Date | Industry | Injury description | Incident summary |
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| 16 Oct | Mining | Cheek injury | Miner pushing up bolt with air leg machine when the plate let go and hit cheek. |