

Reported incidents

4 Feb 2014

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 121 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
13 Dec	Glen Iris	Near miss	While digging a meter out, an excavator hit a gas line damaging it and allowing gas to escape.
13 Dec	Clayton	Electric shock	Employee standing in a scissor lift received an electric shock when he touched a handrail.
13 Dec	Melbourne	Neck injuries and lacerations	A crane was lifting an A-frame pack of glass when a pack of glass fell from it onto an employee.
13 Dec	Melbourne	Lacerated knee	Contractor cut his knee on a piece of metal.
13 Dec	Richmond	Near miss	A large piece of timber vibrated off formwork and fell three floors through a stair void.
13 Dec	Melbourne	Electric shock and burns	Contractor received an electric shock and burns to one side of his body when he dropped an aluminum extension ladder on high voltage power lines that ran parallel to a building.
13 Dec	Ballarat	Lacerated head	Employee slipped and hit his forehead with a spanner while adjusting a roller door.
16 Dec	Kew	Near miss	Excavator was digging a storm water trench near underground power lines when the machine severed newly buried cables. The cables' location was not shown accurately on the site plan.
17 Dec	Gippsland	Fractured ankle	Employee fractured his ankle when he jumped out of his moving truck (brake failure.). The truck rolled down a steep hill, hit an embankment and rolled over.
17 Dec	Sunshine	Broken thumb	Contractor repairing a line on a telegraph pole was standing on a ladder approximately three meters from the ground, when he took the cover off the pole box and a spider came out. He lost his balance, fell to the ground and rolled onto his hand.
17 Dec	Collingwood	Lacerated finger	Apprentice cut his finger while cutting plaster with a utility knife.
17 Dec	Ararat	Fractured ankle	A steel pit lid was knocked over and fell onto an employee's foot.
18 Dec	Hawthorn	Laceration	Employee was installing a ceiling grid when he cut

Reported incidents

			his finger on the main bar.
18 Dec	Melbourne	Near miss	Z-bar nut fell approximately five metres, landing one meter away from some roof plumbers.
18 Dec	Diamond Creek	Near miss	A backhoe bucket hit a gas main causing a gas release.
18 Dec	Sunshine	Fractured leg	Apprentice was adjusting a frame on a step ladder when he stepped off the last rung, lost his balance and fell to the ground.
18 Dec	Geelong	Near miss	A crane driver hit high voltage power lines when direct sun in his eyes impaired his vision,
18 Dec	Warrnambool	Broken leg	A pile of plasterboard (15 sheets, approximately 200kg) was leaning against a wall and fell on a contractor when he tried to reach something from behind the pile.
19 Dec	Croyden	Near miss	A suspended concrete deck partially collapsed during concrete placement/pour works.
19 Dec	Mornington Peninsula	Fractured ankle	Contractor fractured his ankle when his foot became lodged between the arm of a bucket and the body of an excavator.
19 Dec	Mornington Peninsula	Laceration	Contractor building a deck sub-frame was one metre from the ground when he stood on unsupported timber and fell.
19 Dec	Epping	Near miss	Crane driver was lifting roof trusses that slipped off a wall frame and were left hanging, resulting in a partial collapse.
19 Dec	Melbourne	Punctured hand	Employee was nailing a top plate onto a stud with a nail gun when the nail went through the timber and into his palm.
19 Dec	Sunshine	Electric shock	Employee received an electric shock when he sawed through a live power supply located in a concrete slab.
19 Dec	Maribyrnong	Punctured thigh	Employee was excavating when he slipped on the edge of the hole and punctured his thigh.
19 Dec	Shepparton	Near miss	A spreader beam (approximately 300kg) was attached to a crane hook via two chains when one of the chain slings slipped off the hook causing the spreader bar to fall about one foot onto the load.
19 Dec	Horsham	Near miss	A 30 tonne excavator tipped on an edge when it was back filling a three metre deep trench along the side

Reported incidents

			of a road.
19 Dec	Ararat	Fractured foot	Employee was lifting a steel pit lid when it slipped and fell on his foot.
20 Dec	Box Hill	Electric shock	Employee was testing a light fitting when he unplugged a lead and brushed a section of the faulty male plug.
20 Dec	Dandenong	Concussion	Employee was coming down a ladder when he missed the last few rungs and fell back, landing on his head.
20 Dec	Shepparton	Fractured finger	Employee was drilling a hole through a piece of sheet metal with a pistol drill and using a saw. The saw grabbed, he lost grip and his hand caught in the handle area of the drill.
20 Dec	Benalla	Laceration	Employee was using an electric sander buffer when it kicked back into his face.
20 Dec	Sunshine	Head and arm injury	Dogman was standing on a porch roof when a rafter gave way. He fell about two and a half meters onto a concrete slab.
23 Dec	Ringwood	Head injury	A tip truck overturned on site injuring a passenger.
23 Dec	Ringwood	Laceration	Employee was grinding a 12mm reo bar when the grinder disc swung around and cut his finger.
23 Dec	Inverloch	Fractured hand	Employee was on an EWP doing paperwork when a tree branch broke and fell onto his hand.
23 Dec	Casterton	Laceration	Employee was helping a colleague with a chainsaw that stalled and hit his knee when it was restarted.
23 Dec	Geelong	Near miss	Employee was using an excavator near an overhead power cable when the power cable arced between the cable and the excavator.
24 Dec	Melbourne	Near miss	Excavator ruptured a gas main.
30 Dec	Melbourne	Near miss	Excavator digging trenches for a sewer line hit an underground power cable despite calling 'dial-before-you-dig' before work commenced.
2 Jan	Inverloch	Near miss	Employee cut into a blocked sewer pipe using a sewer cutter jetting machine and ruptured a gas main that was piped through the sewer.
2 Jan	Ararat	Fracture	Employee was breaking up track ballast between sleepers ahead of a cleaning machine when his crowbar caught in the machine and flung back at

Reported incidents

			him.
2 Jan	Geelong	Amputated finger	Employee was helping a driver unhook chains from a bin that was inside another bin, put his hand inside the first bin and the second bin slipped onto his finger.
3 Jan	Dandenong	Electric shock	Contractor received an electric shock while installing and testing a handwash station.
6 Jan	Patterson Lakes	Near miss	High wind caused a number of loose wooden planks to be blown around the construction site.
6 Jan	Preston	Near miss	High winds caused a temporary walkway and roof sheets dislodged and landed in a public area.
6 Jan	Shepparton	Lacerated finger	Employee using wire brush to clean steel work when he slipped and cut his finger.
6 Jan	Albert Park	Lacerated leg	Contractor unloading scaffolding from a roof when he slipped.
6 Jan	Gisbourne	Lacerated eye	Employee fainted and hit his head, injuring his eye.
7 Jan	Donvale	Amputated thumb	Employee was using drop saw and the blade struck his thumb.
7 Jan	Kew	Near miss	Excavator made contact with underground high voltage power.
7 Jan	Newport	Lacerated leg, chipped shoulder bone	Employee fell from a ladder while making roof repairs.
8 Jan	Fawkner	Fractured shoulder	Employee was carrying a ladder that opened causing him to trip.
8 Jan	Ivanhoe	Electric shock	Employee was climbing down from a roof through a man hole and grabbed a metal beam that had a metal conduit in it.
9 Jan	Preston	Electric shock	Employee was accessing the roof and put his hand on a cable tray with live cut off wires.
9 Jan	Geelong	Near miss	Engine caught fire on new scissor lift.
10 Jan	Melbourne	Loss of consciousness, bruising	Employee was operating a water cart when it rolled.
10 Jan	Melton	Bruised shoulder, arm and leg	Employee was setting up a string line when he fell about two metres from a quick stage scaffold.

Reported incidents

13 Jan	Bayside	Electric shock	Contractor cut through electrical cable while cutting through gas pipe due to clearance between gas pipe and cable not being maintained.
13 Jan	Glen Iris	Near miss	Crew struck an underground asset with an excavator.
13 Jan	Footscray	Lacerated face	Employee struck in the face by a demo saw that kicked back while cutting a concrete pipe.
13 Jan	Coburg	Lacerated shin	Employee was operating an angle grinder and removing a panel of a temporary fence when the blade shattered and lodged in his leg.
13 Jan	Craigieburn	Facial burns	Contractor was removing a cooling cap from an excavator radiator when he was burned by steam.
13 Jan	Carlton	Lacerated arm	Employee demolishing a wall when a tile came off the wall and cut his arm.
13 Jan	Brunswick	Back injury	A painter on a ladder leant backward to get an overview of the painted area when his back tweaked and he fell off the ladder, onto his elbow and knee.
13 Jan	Altona	Near miss	A cable was struck when a concrete slab was being excavated.
13 Jan	Yarraville	Electric shock	Excavator operator was installing storm water drains and dug into a power line that was not on 'dial-before-you-dig' plans.
14 Jan	Malvern	Fractured hip	Employee marking out railings on a first floor when he lost balance and fell to the ground floor.
14 Jan	Craigieburn	Lacerated finger	Contractor standing on a platform ladder when he tripped and lost his footing, causing him to grab at an edge of aluminum sheet.
14 Jan	Bendigo	Lacerated arm	Contractor using an angle grinder cut his forearm.
14 Jan	Bendigo	Spinal injury	Two employees installing solar hot water tubes when one took a step back and fell through a skylight to the ground.
15 Jan	Carrum	Fractured arm	Employee tripped as he was descending from the back of a work ute and landed awkwardly onto his right arm.
15 Jan	Melbourne	Near miss	Scaffolding tube fell from level 11 to level three, landing in an unrestricted zone.

Reported incidents

15 Jan	Gladstone Park	Loss of consciousness, shoulder injury	Employee was alighting from a single storey roof on a ladder when he fell.
16 Jan	Hawthorn	Lacerated thumb	Bricklayer was handling concrete blocks when he fumbled causing the blocks to fall and crush his thumb.
16 Jan	Werribee	Heat illness and dehydration	Labourer felt dizzy and was concerned he was suffering a heart attack.
17 Jan	Geelong	Leg injury	Employee was struck by an excavator.
17 Jan	Werribee	Near miss	A three tonne bobcat working on top of a bridge reversed onto a platform edge, fell to its side and slid about two metres down the side of the platform.
20 Jan	Prahran	Electric shock	Contractor using an electric welder when a frayed electrical cord came into contact with a steel scaffold.
20 Jan	Prahran	Near miss	A piece of ply wood fell down a floor penetration from level one to ground floor.
20 Jan	Lilydale	Laceration	Employee fell approximately one metre off a ladder, landing on broken concrete.
20 Jan	Werribee	Laceration	Employee lacerated the top of his finger while moving a steel plate into position over a concrete sleeper.
20 Jan	Greensborough	Near miss	Employees damaged a gas service with a machine bucket when they attempted to hand excavate. The service was approximately three meters out of alignment.
20 Jan	Ballarat	Crushed finger	Employee jammed his finger in the access door of mobile plant.
21 Jan	Rowville	Lacerated finger	Apprentice lacerated his finger while operating a nail gun.
21 Jan	Werribee	Near miss	Trench being dug by hand to lay down new piping when an excavator went to clean out soft ground and struck a gas main causing a leak.

Reported incidents

21 Jan	Frankston	Laceration	Employee was cutting concrete blocks using an electric brick saw when it jammed and lacerated his finger as he pulled away.
21 Jan	Wangaratta	Laceration, bruising	Contractor fell over while he was walking around a work site.
21 Jan	Altona	Lacerated finger	Employee lacerated his finger on a piece of tin on a work ute tray while removing a tool box.
21 Jan	Geelong	Lacerated thumb	Employee shot a nail through a piece of timber and into his thumb.
21 Jan	Ballarat	Laceration	Employee was standing trusses on a single story dwelling when one broke, causing him to fall two metres to the ground.
22 Jan	Healesville	Near miss	A low pressure gas main was damaged during road excavation. The line had been located on the plan and a tracer wire was not in place.
22 Jan	Preston	Near miss	A residential gas service was damaged (no trace wire and out of alignment) while water mains were being installed.
22 Jan	Melbourne	Fractured ribs, spinal injury	Employee was unloading temporary fencing panels from a vertical box when he heard a forklift approaching and when he tried to release a 2.4m x 1.8m panel it fell on him.
22 Jan	Castlemaine	Near miss	Old roofing iron was stacked on a roof ready to be removed by a crane when the roof structure gave way and the iron fell to the ground.
23 Jan	Oakleigh	Concussion	Employee struck his head when he fell from a ladder while painting a factory.
23 Jan	Glen Iris	Back injury	A loose bucket from an excavator slid down a trench and hit an apprentice in the lower back while he was digging a pool excavation.
23 Jan	Dandenong	Near miss	Excavator operator was loading a six tonne excavator onto a float when it slipped off the side of a ramp and overturned.
23 Jan	Essendon	Lacerated leg	Employee was lifting a heavy, oily piece of timber when it slipped off his gloves and fell on top of his leg.
23 Jan	Carlton	Lacerated leg	Plumber was using a cordless grinder when it slipped and hit his finger.

Reported incidents

S24 Jan	Dandenong	Lacerated leg	Employee was loading roof tiles on a roof when he slipped on a baton and fell.
24 Jan	Mentone	Lacerated forehead	Employee was tying and cutting wire when he pulled it too hard, breaking the wire and hitting himself in the forehead with the nips he was holding.
24 Jan	Melbourne	Fractured arm	Employee was walking on site when he slipped and landed awkwardly on his forearm.
24 Jan	Echuca	Lacerated finger	Apprentice was putting on cable ties to group electrical cables when he pulled on one of the ties, snapping it. His hand struck metal ducting causing an injury to his finger.
24 Jan	Geelong	Burns	Employee was shifting asphalt with a bobcat when some fell on his leg and burnt him.
28 Jan	Melbourne	Near miss	Excavator driver was digging hit underground low voltage cable to a private residence.
28 Jan	Melbourne	Lacerated thumb	Contractor lacerated his thumb while removing a window. He was not wearing gloves at the time.
28 Jan	West Melbourne	Crushed finger	Contractor was working on an air conditioning system and while removing the air compressor he jammed his finger between the compressor and the dump master.
29 Jan	Camberwell	Lacerated leg	Employee was in a roof space when he slipped and injured his leg.
29 Jan	Melbourne	Electric shock	Employee received a mild electric shock when he cut through an electrical wire while cutting some lagging with a box cutter.

Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
18 Dec	Mine	Near miss	Fire broke out at feeder breaker.
20 Dec	Mine	Near miss	There was rock fall in decline.
3 Jan	Mine	Near miss	A small fire started in an engine compartment of an underground haul truck. A leaking rocker cover gasket was found.
6 Jan	Mine	Near miss	A half tonne of rock fell in an area where a person had been 30 minutes earlier.
6 Jan	Mine	Lacerated	Employee packing away a rock drill pinched the index

Reported incidents

		finger	finger of left hand.
7 Jan	Mine	Possible seizure	A forklift with people in the basket unexpectedly lurched forward. The operator was discovered to be frothing at the mouth.
7 Jan	Mine	Near miss	Mining dredge made contact with two metre lightpole with a flouro fitting approximately 10m high. The fitting struck the drivers cabin roof and fell onto a walkway.
8 Jan	Mine	Electric shock	Employee operating a poly welder received an electric shock.
8 Jan	Quarry	Near miss	Loader caught fire.
20 Jan	Mine	Lacerated thumb	Contractor caught his thumb between a hydraulic jack and a storage bracket.