

Notified incidents

28 August 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 70 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
14 Aug	PAKENHAM	Minor injuries, near miss	Sub contract plumber has been trapped waist height in a trench.
	TRUGANINA	Laceration left hand	Labourer was opening a box with auto retractable safety knife when the knife got stuck in the taping on the box. In trying to get knife out the knife slipped lacerating left hand. Stitches required.
	MOOLAP	Deep laceration to right hand. Possible loss of finger.	Working with a circular saw, worker turned the saw off, the main blade has stopped, scribe has continued to spin, then he took the side guard off not realising the other blade was still spinning.
	BAYSWATER	Lacerated left index finger and thumb	Knife that slipped while cutting a strap.
	BARWON HEADS	left eye injury	Worker, 21, had dust or grit blown into his left eye he was unable to flush it out. He was taken to local medical centre who arranged for ambulance to transport him to hospital.
	TERNEIT	Unknown	Worker was in the process of dismantling the edge protection handrails when the section he was working on collapsed and fell. Worker fell approximately 2.5 metres. It looks as if the carpenters had removed a number of bracket screws.
	BAYSWATER	Neck injury	Male sub-contractor aged in his mid thirties had a fall of approx 1 metre from the rear of a tray truck after he slipped. An ambulance was called as he suffered a possible neck injury that was put in a brace.
	COLLINGWOOD	Near miss	During demolition work of a building, an excavator has hit a gas cylinder (approx 1500ml in height x 200ml diameter), causing the cylinder to be damaged and start leaking. MFB in attendance at present, work has stopped, site evacuated.
	CORIO	Near miss	A beam approx 14m long was being lifted by a forklift on internal road which has pot holes this caused beam to dislodge and fall, dropping onto a car .
	TAYLORS HILL	Near miss	Worker using diesel to clean tools then used unleaded petrol. The unleaded 20L drum caught fire. The fire was extinguished using fire extinguishers.
	PARKVILLE	Unknown	During demolition works, friable asbestos was disturbed and exposed that wasn't detected in the part 6 - audit prior to the job commencing. A cease work was ordered and licenced removalist have been contracted to remove the asbestos.
	NORTH GEELONG	Electric Shock	60 year old male employee, was moving with a metal step and this made contact with an electrical box and gave him an electric shock. Was taken to emergency.
	WHITEHILLS	Near miss	Workers driving star pickets for concrete works & struck power cables No injuries

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	COLLINGWOOD	Near miss	Workmen excavating have struck 2 cylinders that had been buried in the ground.
15 Aug	BARNAWARTHA	Burn to right eye.	Employee, 40, injured when a flake of potassium hydroxide flicked into his right eye the flake went under his safety glasses resulting in a burn to the right eye taken to hospital for treatment.
	FITZROY	Laceration to finger. Surgery required.	Contractor, 22, was using a saw on site, when it jammed and as a result of the kickback lacerated his finger (right hand middle finger) deep into the bone. An ambulance was called.
	BUNDOORA	Laceration to middle finger on left hand	Worker, 23, has cut his middle finger on left hand against a sharp drum when placing items in drum.
	MIRBOO NORTH	Crushed finger	Employee, 50, jammed finger between steel beams.
	SOUTH YARRA	Near miss	Excavator was situated on top of the stock pile approx 1`m high. Soil has given way on edge and excavator has fallen onto its side.
16 Aug	COSTERFIELD	Laceration to upper lip and nose needing five stitches.	Mechanic was tightening up a hydraulic hose fitting using a shifter spanner, when the spanner recoiled and spun around hitting him in the face.
	KEYSBOROUGH	Injuries unknown	Employee, 64, was on the roof cleaning gutters when he stepped on plastic transparent clear light section and fell through it, 3 metres to the ground.
	COLAC	Stitches required	Plumber stepped off curb and dropped shovel. Shovel bounced up and hit him on right eyebrow.
	COLAC	Stitches required	Contractor, 22, has stepped down from step area he had been working on and has received laceration to his left calf from edge of cut reo form work..
	NOTTING HILL	Possible fracture of a shoulder and elbow injury	Worker was servicing a truck when the jack he was using jammed, in trying to fix the jack it released
	BROADMEADOWS	Injured right knee and lower leg	Employee was in the basket of a scissor lift and a metal pole was protruding about 300mm outside. The basket got caught on the underside of the slab causing the pole to strike the employee in the leg.
	COLERAINE	Amputated index finger	3rd yr apprentice carpenter was using a drop saw to cut timber has contacted the blade and he has amputated his index finger.
17 Aug	MELBOURNE	Stiches to right hand	Electrical apprentice was drilling through an aluminium top plate and the drill bit caught his hand was knocked into the top plate.
	DANDENONG	Laceration ring finger Tendon	Worker was using an air grinder to clean excess zinc off beams and this has slipped moved along beam and hit hand that was holding it.
	DOCKLANDS	lacerations to fingers	Worker was in process of erecting formwork frames from an EWP as lifting his fingers (middle two fingers) on left hand were caught between frame and EWP.
	BEAUMARIS	Fractured left thumb and	Employee was trying to snap a piece of timber to fit into the rubbish bin when he injured his left thumb.

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		associated ligament damage.	
	HIGHETT	Near miss	Employees disassembling some external scaffold, when a load of timber that was being moved with a tower crane touched the scaffold due to strong winds.
	BLAMPIED	Near miss	Grass/bushfire caused by sparks from demolition saw activities. Demolition saw being used to cut concrete pipe by the side of the road.
	MELBOURNE	Near miss	A small aluminium tube has fallen off the side of the building into a drop zone where the barricades were still being put into place. Staff in the area but no one was injured. Fall from level 6 to level 1 approx 20 metres.
	SOUTH YARRA	Fractured right ankle	Worker fell from top of a metal container whilst trying to release crane chains. It appears that the shipping container was placed hard up against the corner of the block which required worker to climb on top of the container. While worker was on top of the container the crane operator started to lift the container resulting in worker falling about 2.5m taken to hospital by ambulance.
	WINDSOR	Near miss	Workers were grinding rail when sparks entered the back of a truck and ignited the unleaded fuel, causing the back of the truck to catch fire.
	BOX HILL	Lacerated tip of thumb on right hand	Maintenance worker was using electrical workbench saw and lacerated tip of right thumb.
	MORWELL	Burns to wrist	Working near a gas torch that had a loose connection that was creating a leak that was ignited by sparks resulting in the worker receiving superficial burns
	RYE	Crushed fingers left hand	Male, 19, was doing demo work in concrete removal has squashed his fingers between some concrete and the ground.
20 Aug	SANDHURST	Seven stitches to left leg	Employee doing landscaping walked over a covered storm water pit and the fibreglass tipped and he fell into the 600 mm deep pit.
	LAVERTON NORTH	Crushed chest injury	Worker was moving a spreader bar and was struck by the bar and caught in-between the bar and a post.
	BAYSWATER	Crushed finger	Employee was using a cradle roller and has crushed the tip of finger.
	DOCKLANDS	Cuts and bruises to head, neck, left shoulder.	Worker was installing plywood (formwork) in preparation for concrete around stairwell. Worker accessed room underneath stairwell which was dark and he did not see void under stairwell (450mm wide x 2.5m deep) and worker fell into it.
	WAURN PONDS	Electric shock	Employee was fitting a piece of glass into an aluminium door and he received an electric shock from the door.
	ALPHINGTON	Near miss	Worker was passing scaffold down from level balcony to worker below, when he leant against the hand rail which collapsed and fell down approx 3 m missing the worker below.

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	MORWELL	Near miss	Piece of concrete (size of fist) fell from height of approx 30 metres. Fell between two workers walking past.
21 Aug	ALTONA.	Fractured lower right leg.	A 55 year old male employee was climbing down a fixed ladder when he fell approx 2 metres from the ladder
	BALLARAT	Near miss	50 metres of temporary fencing, around the site perimeter, has blown over in the wind.
	WARRAGUL	Severe bruising to ribs and kidney	Employee has slipped from bottom rung of ladder and landed on edge of a nearby table. Admitted to hospital.
	OCEAN GROVE.	Ruptured left arm bicep surgery required.	Plant operator was lifting a vandal shield to relocate to put onto excavator.
	BACCHUS MARSH	Amputation of 3 fingers right hand	Worker was jump starting the Manitou machine and noticed the fan belt that was loose so was trying to fix it and a co worker accidentally turned the machine on.
	MULGRAVE	Electric shock	A contractor received an electric shock from a microwave in the lunch room when he opened the door after it stopped working.
	TRARALGON	Near miss	Scaffolder dropped a scaffold key from height, which fell roughly 11 stories. It narrowly missed a crew of workers that were below near the foot of the scaffolding.
	YALLOURN	Stiches to back of hand	Contractor was using a sanding grinder facing a plastic pipe ready to be joined. It has slipped whilst the grinder was operating and has struck the back of his hand.
	BRUNSWICK	Laceration to the spleen	Labourer was working up a ladder when he has fallen approx 2m to ground.
22 Aug	BROADMEADOWS	Near miss	A grinder was being used on some metal, and a spark has gone into wheelie bin and set fire to the waste.
	MELBOURNE	Laceration to scalp	Male welder was welding with a welding mask on (not a safety helmet) when a small piece of ceiling angle fell from floor above hitting welder on the head.
	SURREY HILLS	Puncture wound to left index and middle finger	Employee was putting a kickboard together when he fired the nail gun into his left hand index and middle finger. Admitted for surgery to remove nail and repair damage.
	HALLAM	Fractured right wrist	Worker was leaning his right elbow on a scissor lift while working, when the scissor lift was raised his right wrist became jammed against a rack causing a fracture to his right wrist.
	GEELONG	Laceration to cheek, bridge of nose and fracture right wrist	Demolition worker was working up a ladder doing maintenance to the roof when the ladder locking mechanism failed. Worker fell approx 2-3m to the ground, hitting cheek, nose, chest and right wrist. Plate has been inserted. Currently inpatient in hospital.
23 Aug	MULGRAVE	Unknown injuries	External cladding was stacked at site and it was blown over by the wind, a light weight piece has hit a worker and injured him the ambulance was called and is attending to him on site. Injuries to be confirmed..
	MELBOURNE,	Electric shock x 2 workers	Two workers received an electric shock from a fusion welding machine. Taken to emergency for testing and observation.

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	NEWTOWN		Contractor was working on a skid-steer loader (track) when the hard stand underneath the machine gave way, when it caused the machine to slip into a 300mm trench and topple onto its side. Trench was 300mm.
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MINING AND MAJOR HAZARD FACILITIES

Date	Industry	Injury	Incident description
Aug 2	CHEMS & PLASTICS	Stiches to laceration on ankle	Male (53yrs) was replacing a pump; he slipped and cut above his left ankle on a sharp piece of cable tray .
Aug 8	MINE	Near miss	A 2kg (approx) piece of coal fell from dredger bucket wheel landing within 1 metre of workers.
Aug 9	PETROLEUM	Injury unknown	When an employee was entering the workplace, he slipped over face first and sustained an injury.
Aug 9	CHEMS & PLASTICS	Near miss	Whilst loading a truck with a clamp, truck has reversed back and knocked reels over reels stacked 3.5m high and weigh approx 600-700kg each of these have fallen away from forklift truck.
Aug 8	QUARRY	Lacerated/ crushed finger	Maintenance worker placing rams to unscrew a crusher bowl, jammed index finger in a ram when it returned.
Aug 16	CHEMS & PLASTICS	Unknown injury	A reaction in a tank has caused an escape (Mild Plume) of NOX (Nitrogen Dioxide) to occur.
Aug 16	MINE	Laceration to face	Mechanic tightening up a hydraulic hose fitting -spanner recoiled hitting face r
Aug 16	CHEMS & PLASTICS	Laceration to head	Contractor bent down to pick up a hose, as the contractor stood up he bumped his head on the rear bumper of his truck..