

# Reported incidents

## 4 March 2014

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 description	Incident summary
14 Feb	Melbourne	Illness	Employees became ill after cleaning out the pit of a disused lift which contained sludge, putrid water, dead birds and vermin.
14 Feb	Preston	Near miss	Contractor obtained a 'dial before you dig' and used a USD to locate gas line from home to footpath, but lost signal under asphalt and ruptured 20 ml poly hose.
14 Feb	Melbourne	Laceration	Contractor walked on rubber pipes, slipped and cut his wrist.
14 Feb	Port Melbourne	Laceration	Employee cut the back of his hand when he brushed it against steel reinforcement.
14 Feb	Carlton	Fracture	Employee slipped while loading a truck and lost his footing, injuring his ankle.
17 Feb	Mentone	Near miss	Contractor was moving an antenna on a roof when a support pole fell and pierced the roof.
17 Feb	Cheltenham	Laceration	Employee using an angle grinder that kicked back and struck him in the shin.
17 Feb	Mt Eliza	Laceration and bruising	Employee was pinned between a bobcat and a motor vehicle during traffic control duties.
17 Feb	Craigieburn	Laceration	Subcontractor was passing up some box guttering to other employees when the box gutter slipped and injured his finger.
17 Feb	Melbourne	Electric shock	Plasterer was installing a ceiling access hatch when he received an electric shock.
17 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	Emergency brakes were activated when a high-speed man-hoist exceeded limits, causing three employees to exit abruptly.
17 Feb	Craigieburn	Fracture	Contractor was unloading windows from a truck when strong winds blew a window onto his head.
17 Feb	Geelong	Laceration	Plasterer was working on stilts when he stepped backwards into a hanging crossbeam.
17 Feb	Lorne	Near miss	Forklift overturned while unloading scaffolding.

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18 Feb	Balwyn	Near miss	Employee fell through scaffolding while measuring around a chimney.
18 Feb	Narre Warren	Laceration	Bricklayer was using a car jack to support a level, when the jack failed and caused bracing to snap and a roof tile to dislodge and hit the back of the head.
18 Feb	Seaford	Laceration	Contractor pushed his left knee into an ant cap while passing up flooring, cutting his leg.
18 Feb	Heidelberg	Near miss	Workers hand-excavating hit a gas-service pipe.
18 Feb	Melbourne	Laceration	Carpenter cut his thumb while cutting timber with a circular saw.
18 Feb	Docklands	Near miss	A 17mm socket fell from a crane tie on level 18 and landed outside the worksite.
18 Feb	Geelong	Fracture	Employee installing U-head into H-frame concrete formwork when he slipped and fell on his hand.
19 Feb	Pakenham	Laceration	Employee was laying down mesh when he slipped through it, falling approximately 600mm and cutting his leg.
19 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	During a site scrape workers broke an electrical cable that was 300mm underground instead of 600mm.
19 Feb	Mentone	Near miss	Pieces of timber fell from second-level formwork, striking an employee on the back.
19 Feb	Port Melbourne	Bruising	Employee was removing a ladder from the roof of a vehicle conduit tube when a bolt broke and his hand was jammed between roof and tube.
19 Feb	Broadmeadows	Laceration	Apprentice was hammering a star picket into the ground and hit his finger.
20 Feb	Ringwood	Electric shock	Apprentice carpenter was loading his van when metal pipework came into contact with a live cable hanging from a power pole.
20 Feb	Canterbury	Laceration	Person injured his finger while using an angle grinder.
20 Feb	Carnegie	Burns	Employee attending a gas escape cut off the service after repairs were tested, then tapped with chisel through main, sparked and resulted in a small gas explosion.
20 Feb	Kew	Laceration	Apprentice taking down a roller door when the door sprung as it was coming down and hit him on the head.
20 Feb	Chirnside Park	Concussion, laceration	Worker was drilling when he lost grip on the trigger; the drill twisted around and knocked him on the head.

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20 Feb	Carlton	Laceration	Employee cut his leg on a nail.
20 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	Two employees were working in a lift shaft when construction workers were jackhammering on the 14 <sup>th</sup> level, causing a 150mm piece of concrete to fall to the ground.
20 Feb	Southbank	Near miss	A piece of aluminum curtain wall bracket fell from the 47 <sup>th</sup> level and landed on the roadway below.
20 Feb	Lalor	Laceration	Employee was cutting a concrete pipe on the ground when the demo saw jammed and kicked back, the guard striking him in the neck.
20 Feb	Melton	Eye injury	Repair man was chipping away at a concrete pipe when a piece of pipe entered his eye.
20 Feb	Richmond	Electric shock	Contractor was pulling out a dishwasher and broke the electrical connection.
20 Feb	Shepparton	Electric shock	Employee was installing a new circuit into a switch when his screwdriver slipped and his hands got an electric shock.
20 Feb	Geelong	Eye injury	Employee was using a nail gun and a nail ricocheted and hit an apprentice in the eye.
20 Feb	Bendigo	Nail in thumb	Employee was using a nail gun and shot a 3-inch nail into his thumb.
21 Feb	Dandenong	Laceration	Employee was putting tools in his toolbox when the wind blew the lid shut onto his head.
21 Feb	Moorabbin	Laceration	Employee was moving glass when a piece shattered and stabbed him in the shin.
21 Feb	Hawthorn	Laceration	Subcontractor was working on lift installation. He was tightening a nut when the spanner slipped and his arm struck a stainless-steel edge.
21 Feb	Laverton	Ankle injury	Subcontractors were digging a trench on site when an observer standing nearby was hit on the ankle with the bucket of the excavator.
21 Feb	Ararat	Near miss	Low-pressure natural-gas pipeline was accidentally ruptured.
21 Feb	Melbourne	Lacerations	Plumber lifted an old porcelain toilet which cracked, lacerating both of his arms.
25 Feb	Keilor Park	Lacerations, fractures	Employee fell off a ladder as he was trying to mount a satellite dish.

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25 Feb	Laverton	Near miss	Excavator punctured a 3-phase electrical underground power cable.
25 Feb	West Melbourne	Near miss	Contractor was using a boring machine to drill holes for a new water pipeline when it came in contact with a gas line.
25 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	A 25 tonne ridge beam fell a short distance as it was being lowered to the ground when the crane cable broke.
25 Feb	Epping	Near miss	Mag drill fell approximately 10 metres and landed in drop-zone area of building site.
25 Feb	Melbourne	Laceration	Apprentice was hammering a wooden peg with a sledgehammer when the hammer struck the side of her finger and damaged her tendons.
25 Feb	Prahran	Unknown	A worker's helmets blew off, striking a student at a school next door.
25 Feb	Ballarat	Crush	Employee was stripping form work after concreting when he attempted to lift a piece of timber. The timber slipped out of his hand, crushing his finger between the joist and the underside of the slab.
25 Feb	Waurin Ponds	Bruising	Worker (spotter) was pushed against wall by scissor lift when it moved forward while setting up outriggers.
26 Feb	Victoria	Laceration	Worker was nailing wall frame and shot nail into his right hand between thumb and index finger.
26 Feb	Victoria	Fractures	Ladder slipped and worker fell backwards onto concrete.
26 Feb	Dandenong	Laceration	Worker assembling wall frames shot a nail into his wrist.
26 Feb	Bundoora	Near miss	Struck gas main while excavating.
26 Feb	Stawell	Fracture	Worker's hand crushed by lid of rubbish skip when wind caught lid.
26 Feb	Warrnambool	Fracture	Worker was removing skylight when he fell through it onto the floor below.
27 Feb	Mill Park	Laceration	Worker fitting external cladding placed nail gun between his right leg and stomach to hold the nail gun, as he went to grab the nail gun, it went off and was shot in the stomach.
27 Feb	Werribee	Laceration	Employee was using a blade to cut through geo fabric and has cut into his leg.

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27 Feb	Christmas Hills	Near miss	Fire alarms have gone off in high voltage room and fire suppressant gas has been released as designed
28 Feb	Melbourne	Near miss	Carpenter walking past a hand rail on Level 4 when hammer dislodged from holster fell to Level 1
28 Feb	Port Fairy	Laceration	Carpenter routing out door hinges has hit finger and split nail.
28 Feb	Geelong	Laceration	Worker was stabbed in the left hand by a screwdriver when it slipped during glazing works.

## Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
18 Feb	Mine	Near miss	During ashing of a boiler, the front end loader that was scooping ash rolled back and struck the safety screen 'tardis' used by boiler operators.
18 Feb	Mine	Carbon monoxide exposure	Employees (14 total) exposed to carbon monoxide while putting out a fire at the mine.
18 Feb	Mine	Carbon monoxide exposure	Employee received a 5% reading with carbon monoxide exposure while putting out a fire at the mine.
18 Feb	Mine	Eye injury	Employee got dust and metal shards in his eye.