

Notified incidents

22 May 2012

Since the last edition of *Safety Soapbox*, there have been 60 incidents reported to WorkSafe, from the construction, utilities, quarrying and mining industries. Below is a summary of these incidents.

| Suburb | Injury details | Incident description |
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| 4 May 2012 | | |
| Essendon | Leg injury | Worker received a fractured leg after stepping back and partially falling into an open manhole. |
| Reservoir | Foot fracture | Worker's foot was crushed by an excavator that rolled over it. |
| 5 May 2012 | | |
| Southbank | Nail through the hand and leg laceration | Worker fell over after filling up a nail bag and received a laceration to the leg and a nail through the hand. |
| Frankston | Lacerations | Member of the public fell through a sewerage pit lid that was in the process of being replaced. |
| 6 May 2012 | | |
| Wonthaggi | Electric shock | Worker placed an electric pump into a sump, plugged the pump into electrical supply and turned it on. Appears to have received an electric shock. |
| 7 May 2012 | | |
| Eaglehawk | Fractured skull, lacerations to both elbows | Worker using a ladder to climb down from a top plate fell about 2.2 metres. |
| Hawthorn East | Near miss | Locking pin on a glass sucker sheared while it was being rotated, glass sucker was hooked to crane at the time. |
| Ballarat | Laceration | Worker hit head on conduit hanging over a ladder rack of a Ute. |
| Camberwell | Laceration | Worker setting up cement mixed, slipped, fell and cut left shin. |
| Greensborough | Concussion | Worker fell off ladder and was knocked unconscious. |
| 8 May | | |
| Taylors Hill | Puncture wound | Worker was on a ladder fixing eaves with a nail gun when he slipped and the gun fired a three-inch nail into the top of his left hand. |
| Longford | Lacerations | Worker was participating in a confined space entry training course. Was using Rollgliss when left ring finger became caught between the rope and pulley blocks. |
| Bendigo | Laceration | Worker was carrying a sheet of metal when it slipped in his |

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| | | hand and caused a laceration to the right thumb. |
| Canterbury | Near miss | A mantu was being used to shift a pack of plywood on the ground floor by a worker. The driver drove onto ply that was covering a penetration. A wheel broke through the ply covering causing it to tip onto an angle. |
| Horsham | Electric shock | Worker received a minor electric shock from a 'dead' circuit. |
| 9 May | | |
| Mt Martha | Laceration to back of head | New pipe work was being pressure tested and a plug placed in the end of the pipe. The plug dislodged and hit a piece of timber, which then hit a worker in the head. |
| Tullamarine | Serious lacerations | Worker was cutting kitchen cupboards with a scribe saw and cut the tip of his middle and ring fingers on right hand. |
| Wantirna | Amputation of finger | Worker was removing a trailer from the back of a Ute. He put the jockey wheel down and wound it up. The trailer moved and crushed his right hand middle finger. |
| Bendigo | Near miss | A piece of timber six metres long fell from a scissor lift to the ground and landed in a roped off area. |
| Templestowe | Burns | Worker was jack hammering into the road and sustained a flash burn. |
| Warrnambool | Laceration | Worker raked fingers across a gang nail plat and lacerated his fingers on right hand. |
| Melbourne | Electric shock | Worker was switching off a hot/cold water tap and received a shock. |
| Dromana | Near miss | While excavating material in preparation for footpath an excavator contacted a gas distribution line and the line ruptured. |
| Mount Waverley | Fractured ribs and other bones | Worker was underneath part of house that was being relocated and became trapped underneath. |
| Malvern | Asbestos exposure | Workers were demolishing a boiler panel using an acetylene torch, dust was spread everywhere, the dust was sampled and was laboratory tested and confirmed to be asbestos. |
| 10 May | | |
| Brighton East | Notified incident | Double storey house under construction reported as unsafe. |
| Glen Waverley | Near miss | Glass was being installed on the fifth storey of a building when the glass clipped the scaffold and shattered with workers in the immediate vicinity |

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| Morwell | Bruising to knee | Worker was struck by a reversing car in the car park. |
| Southbank | Electric shock | While working in a roof space a worker moved a live cable, tape came loose at the end of the cable and the worker sustained an electric shock. |
| Maribyrnong | Scratched cornea | Worker was welding copper pipe when they came apart, knocking off safety glasses and making contact with the worker's eye, resulting in a scratched cornea. |
| Surrey Hills | Near miss | Worker fell about three metres while replacing slate tiles on a roof and a timber batten gave way. |
| Vermont South | Upper left arm and chest injury | A three metre handrail component slid out from between two sheets that were being moved, sliding down a roof and through perimeter handrail, deflecting onto a lower roof into a public area and making contact with a member of the public causing injury. |
| St Arnaud | Electric shock | Worker was removing old wiring to install new wiring in the hall and thought it was isolated but felt a current. |
| 11 May | | |
| Elwood | Crushing injury | Worker was loading a steel road plate onto a vehicle when his finger became trapped between the plate and vehicle, sustaining a crush injury to the middle and ring fingers on one hand. |
| Werribee | Near miss | Worker was excavating a storm water trench when the ground gave way and the excavator fell onto its side. |
| East Keilor | Near miss | An excavator tipped onto its side and began leaking diesel. |
| Docklands | Near miss | Sheet of plywood fell five floors through screen and landed on the street. |
| Ballarat | Fractured thumb and wrist | Worker was fitting insulation to a carport on an existing home when he put weight on a roof baton, lost balance and fell about two metres. |
| 14 May | | |
| Bentleigh | Laceration to left forearm | Worker slipped off the second ladder rung while taking a measurement and cut himself on the forearm. |
| Pakenham | Near miss | An excavator dug through underground electrical power supply while doing civil works installing a sewer. |
| Wodonga | Near miss | While excavating the ground, machinery struck an underground gas main. |
| Sunshine West | Near miss | A crane was repositioning trusses on the top plate using a basket hitch method. When the load was lifted, the trusses shifted and the load slipped onto the first floor damaging a |

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| | | 2.4-metre high wall. |
| 15 May | | |
| Essendon North | Crushed hand | Worker had hand on top of a pipe while going up in a scissor lift and the hand became caught between the concrete slab and the pipe, crushing his hand. |
| Ballarat | Fracture vertebrae | Worker fell from a flat verandah roof and fractured vertebrae in lower back. |
| 16 May | | |
| Parkville | Near miss | A truck backed into a loading bay preparing to unload. A worker loosened two straps and a piece of metal pipe dislodged, fell and struck him in the head. He was wearing safety helmet at the time. |
| Toorak | Ankle sprain | The bolt on a void protector failed after the protector tilted at a height of about 2.7 metres. A worker then rolled their ankle on the unlevel ground. |
| Shepparton | Puncture wound to eye | Worker was denailing timber when he received a puncture wound to the left eye. |
| 17 May | | |
| Carrum Downs | Fractured fibula | Worker was walking around the site when he slipped in the mud. His foot landed on a rock and twisted his right knee. |
| Laverton | Near miss | Worker was operating an overhead crane when the electric motor came loose, fell and hit him on the head. |
| 18 May | | |
| Fitzroy | Electric shock | Worker removed a ceiling tile to access a roof space, and received an electric shock from the air conditioning cushion box while trying to move it out of the way. |
| Melbourne | Concussion | Worker was walking down stairs, with a scaffold erected at the top of the stairs, when his head hit a low ledge of the scaffold. |
| Chirnside Park | Head injury | Worker sustained a head injury when a hose came off a concrete pump and hit him. He was wearing a hard hat. |
| Beaumaris | Possible fractured arm | Worker fell approximately 1.8, from an unstable ladder. |
| Canterbury | Amputated fingertip | Worker was using a cutting tool when the tip of his finger became amputated. |
| Endeavour Hills | Broken ankle | Apprentice was installing solar panels on a flat roof, when he stood on the laser light section and fell through. |
| Mining | | |

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| Costerfield | Eye injury | Worker got oil in the eye after a hose burst on the underground excavator he was operating. |
| Ouyen | Near miss | Haul truck has lost steering and driven through a safety barrier and over an edge of approximately 12 metres. Truck landed on its wheels, some front step damage and hydraulic hose blown. |
| Ballarat | Crushed finger | Worker was loading a drill steel onto a vehicle when he tripped and the drill steel fell onto his hand crushing the right index finger on the vehicle tray (between knuckle and first digit). |
| Morwell | Near miss | While re-fueling a small jerry full of fuel, the can ignited and set alight the sleeve alight. |
| Costerfield | Back bruising | While working underground, a football sized piece of rock fell out of the rock face, rolled down the jumbo boom and hit a worker on the back. |