

Notified incidents

14 February 2012

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 72 incidents, serious enough to be reported to WorkSafe Victoria, from the construction, utility and quarrying industries. Below is a summary of these incidents.

Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
30/01/12		
Seaford	Electric shock	An electrician working on a switchboard sustained an electric shock.
Woodhouse	N/A	A worker was using a bottle jack offset device when one of the adjusting bolts failed causing the levelling ledge supports to give way and the embed structure then collapsed to the ground.
Prahran	N/A	An excavator struck an underground power cable.
Bendigo	N/A	A crane was lifting a section of processing unit when the lift failed and the section was released from height.
Melbourne	N/A	A worker was digging with an excavator and hit a 400mm deep gas pipe causing it to leaking.
Richmond	N/A	A worker was adjusting scaffolding and hit the tubing with a hammer which caused the tie-bar at the end of the tubing to come loose and it fell six floors to the ground.
Melbourne	N/A	A piece of 2 x 1 metre concrete cladding fell from level 8 to the ground.
Malvern East	Electric shock	A worker was using an angle grinder on site when it started to rain causing the grinder to give him a shock.
West Melbourne	N/A	A window frame was being removed from fifth floor of building and a 400mm piece of beading from the frame fell to the ground.
Newport	Shoulder injury	Two workers on a roof leaned against a safety rail which gave way and both fell to the ground.
31/01/12		
Avondale heights	N/A	A truck was going up a ramp and got too close to the edge and the trailer rolled over.
Camberwell	N/A	A piece of 450mm x 350mm tin signage from a crane fell onto the road.
Bangholme	Electric shock	A worker was carrying a power drill (240 watt) when he received an electric shock.
Doreen	Facial injuries, bruising.	A worker was walking through a display home when she walked into a window instead of out the door.

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Richmond	Fractured right ankle	As a worker stepped off a steel staircase that was being demolished he slipped on a piece of loose mortar.
Bendigo	Electric shock	A plumber was replacing a length of duct when he received an electric shock.
1/2/12		
Clayton	N/A	A major stability problem occurred while operating a large crane.
Kulwin	Electric shock.	A worker using a magnetic drill which was connected to an extension cord when he felt a tingle in his hand.
Ashwood	Loss of consciousness	A worker fell 1.4 metres off the back of a semi trailer to the ground.
Melbourne	N/A	A post tension cable blew out from a slab on level four causing concrete to fall onto the site shed, the footpath and road.
Heathmont	Laceration to head, bruising to shoulder	A worker was collecting a ladder when a steel beam broke the supports and struck him.
2/2/12		
Hallam	Back Injury	A worker was lifting a roll of poly plastic and felt a twinge in his back.
Bundoora	Burns	A cup of hot tea was knocked off the table and burnt a workers left leg.
Melbourne	N/A	Workers were installing window frames on level 19 when a window fell 19 floors onto gantry.
Highett	N/A	Pumping concrete for a suspended slab when a hydraulic hose blew on the concrete boom.
Murrumbena	Laceration	A worker was on the roof when he stepped on a tile which broke and his leg was cut by the broken tile as he went through the roof.
3/2/12		
Waverley	N/A	A worker moved a power board to complete laying a row bricks resulting in the live power board falling backwards and shorting.
Brookfield	N/A	An excavator hit the brick work on the garage of a neighbouring property.
Alexandra	Fractured right wrist	A worker lost his balance and fell off a stepladder on a building site.
St Kilda East	Laceration	A worker was replacing tiles on a roof when the tiles gave way underneath him, causing him to fall and sustain

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		laceration to his right leg.
Wonthaggi	Exposure to resin	A worker felt ill after being exposed to a resin used to coat fibreglass pipes.
Numurkah	N/A	An excavator caught fire in the shed.
Richmond	N/A	A glass balustrade was broke on the fourth floor with 20 per cent of it falling into the drop zone and the rest landing on the balcony.
Romsey	N/A	Part of the boom on a concrete pump gave way and bent down and the end of the boom struck ground.
Yallourn	N/A	A grid mat fell through the bunker roof landing on a walkway.
Melton West	N/A	An excavator fractured a high pressure gas main.
Bright	Bruising	A 21 tonne excavator was being floated through some road-works when it hit a backhoe which then struck a worker.
Melbourne	N/A	A concrete encased steel beam was being demolished when it fell and struck the live supply tunnel in the basement and put a hole in wall.
6/2/12		
West Melbourne	N/A	A concrete pump boom and a mobile materials handling unit collided.
Melbourne	Electric shock	A worker sustained an electric shock whilst coring (using a concrete cutting machine) a concrete slab.
Fitzroy	N/A	Scaffold attached to a three storey building under construction was blown over onto the street.
Carnegie	N/A	Scaffold attached to a block of units under construction was blown over onto the street.
Travancore	N/A	Six meters long of section of sub-sill came loose from a building in high winds and fell 20 stories landing on the other side of the road on top of a freight container.
Woodend	Laceration	A worker was coming out of a man hole when the timber gave way causing him and the ladder to fall to the ground.
Box Hill	Electric shock	A worker was putting up brackets in a refurbishment and received a small shock.
Kerang	Head injury	A bridge being demolished collapsed onto an excavator. The operator jumped out and was struck by the excavator arm.

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Kew East	N/A	Roof trusses collapsed in strong winds.
7/2/12		
Doncaster	N/A	Strong winds blew a two metre wide louvre off the worksite onto an adjoining building.
Melbourne	N/A	Excavator bucket made contact with overhead gantry crane, putting dent in crane.
8/2/12		
Frankston	Laceration to left knee	A worker was removing tiles from a wall when one fell and struck the worker on the knee.
Cheltenham	Laceration to head	A worker was climbing a ladder when a piece of the metal platform fell and hit the worker on the head.
Healesville	Laceration	A worker was in an EWP installing piping when a coupling slipped out of another workers hand hitting him on the head.
9/2/12		
Cranbourne North	Laceration	An electrician was drilling cabinetry with 120mm hole-saw when the hole-saw slipped and lacerated his left knee.
Wodonga	Electric shock	A worker putting up a power point received a minor electric shock.
Strathmore	Fractured middle finger.	A worker was lifting timber up and one end fell squashing his finger against another piece of timber.
Fitzroy	Electric Shock	A worker climbed a ladder to check a light bulb and as he grabbed the fitting he received an electric shock.
Kensington	N/A	A post-tensioning cable snapped.
Tullamarine	N/A	A 2.5 kg steel tube was resting against a handrail on a work platform when it slipped off, falling three metres between the wall of the bridge and end of the scaffold.
Melbourne	N/A	A worker was on a level 17 balcony when his chisel fell into an adjacent drop zone on level four.
Sunbury	N/A	A worker was operating a 35 tonne excavator on top of fill when it started to give at the back. He put bucket down, turned off machine and got out before it tipped over onto its side.
Mortlake	Fractured ankle	A worker slipped while undertaking water sampling and fractured their leg.
Bonnie Doon	Flash Burns	A worker received flash burns to upper body while installing two new gas fryers.
10/2/12		

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Altona North	Fractured ribs	Sheets of plaster board fell onto a worker.
Bendigo	Laceration	An apprentice roof tiler tripped on piece of spouting on the ground and lacerated his leg.
Footscray	N/A	A two metre section of existing brick wall collapsed and fell to the ground during core filling between the wall and a panel.
Melbourne	N/A	A five metre long 500mm diameter pipe weighing 500 kg rolled off a truck onto the ground in a zoned cordoned off area of the site.
Lalor	Burns to legs	A worker was igniting a gas bottle when it caught on fire. The worker kicked the bottle away and received burns to both legs.
Dandenong	Seizure	A truck crashed into a fence and hit a container when the driver experienced a seizure.
Mining		
Fosterville	Laceration	Worker was emptying core out of a core rod when core came out impacting on right hand index finger.
Bendigo	Laceration	A worker sustained a laceration to his right hand whilst changing a wheel on a truck.
Fosterville	Smoke inhalation	There was a loader fire at the 450m mark affecting about 30 workers.
Hazelwood	N/A	A dozer being used to clear top soil rolled on its side.