

Reported incidents

29 May 2012

Since the last edition there were 82 incidents reported to WorkSafe in the manufacturing, logistics, meat, food, agriculture and retail/trade industries.

These include 11 fractures, 21 lacerations and three electric shocks.

Manufacturing			
Date*	Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
10 May	Bayswater	Laceration to thumb	Worker was using a router when it slipped and cut his thumb causing a laceration.
12 May	Portland	Dislocated finger	Worker dislocated his finger when he jammed it between a crowbar and a head beam while he was removing fertilizer build up.
14 May	Dandenong	Loss of consciousness	Worker was undertaking electrical maintenance on the external part of large vessel near an open hatch. Nitrogen was escaping causing low oxygen levels, he lost consciousness for few seconds and spotters removed him immediately from the area.
15 May	Maryborough	Insect bite	Worker went out for a smoko and had to remove his dirty shirt. When he returned his shirt had fallen on the ground and put it back on to return to work. He felt something up his sleeve and found a spider (suspected red back) that had just bitten him. He returned to duties and started having breathing difficulties so was taken to hospital.
	Hastings	Possible broken limbs	An explosion occurred in a nearby workplace and a worker sustained serious injuries.
	Somerton	Laceration to foot	Worker dropped a cylinder (break booster) on his foot when it slipped after unscrewing it. Cylinder struck the top of his right foot just above the instep, missing the steel cap and resulting in a laceration on the foot.
16 May	Moorabbin	Loss of consciousness and ankle injury	Worker lost consciousness and collapsed, possibly dislocating his ankle.
17 May	Laverton	Near miss	Worker was operating an overhead crane when the cowling over the electric motor has come loose and fell, hitting him on the head. He was wearing a safety helmet at the time.
18 May	Shepparton	Abrasions	Worker was using a lyncher (grinding belt) machine when a piece of metal went between the wheel and the belt. The worker's fingers were then ground against the belt.

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19 May	Altona North	Facial lacerations	Employee was undertaking house-keeping duties when a piece of metal struck him in the face.
20 May	Broadmeadows	Finger injury	A worker received an injury to their finger from a cutting machine.
21 May	Derrimut	Face lacerations	Employee was testing a new Co2 flow indicator, standing directly in front of the unit with the manual valves open and the flow controller closed. As he opened the flow controller the steel shuttle started to move upwards which is supposed to equalise the pressure. As the shuttle came to a rest the glass tube on the glass indicator exploded into his face.
22 May	Somerton	Near miss	Worker operating a crown forklift has dislodged a pallet above the one he was trying to get out of the racking. The contents of the pallet above toppled four metres down over the forklift.
	Williamstown	Bruising to the right foot and suspected fractures	Employee was setting up to weld a steel panel that was placed next to a bench on the ground. The panel tipped and trapped his foot causing bruising to the right foot and suspected fractures.
	Heidelberg	Serious lacerations	Worker was operating a slitter metal folder when another co-operator pressed the slitting function while the operator still had his hand in the machine.
	Dandenong	Lacerations	Worker cut hand while using a Stanley knife.
	Horsham	Serious laceration	Worker was cutting timber using a power saw when he cut his left index finger.
23 May	Shepparton	Near miss	A ceiling light has fallen to the ground near where employees are working.
	Epsom	Eye injury	Worker was cutting veranda bolts when metal debris went under safety glasses and into left eye.
	Ringwood	Electric shock	Employee was working in an extrude area when he removed a heating band and put in on the bench. He went to remove the plug, pulled on the wires which came out and received an electric shock.
	Brunswick	Arm injury	Worker's arm was caught in a mixing machine.
24 May	Morwell	Suspected fractured wrist	Employee received a suspected fractured wrist caused by a short distance fall from a ladder.
	Belmont	Laceration	Employee was using a table saw to cut melamine board when he cut his left hand on the thumb and index finger.
	Knox	Near miss	Car was on a hoist at a height of approximately 2m when the front of the hoist gave way and the front of the car came down. The technician was under the car at the time but received no injuries.
	Morwell	Burns	Employee was using a hot water hose to clean up an area when water splashed onto his chest and left side of neck resulting in blisters.
25 May	Moorabbin	Laceration	Employee was cutting a piece of timber when it slipped and cut his finger, sustaining a lacerated left middle finger.
	Maryvale	Fractured wrist	Employee was working on a ladder cleaning a 3m high tank when the ladder gave way causing him to fall 1.5m landing on his right wrist.
	Geelong	Laceration to right leg	Worker loading flashing onto a semi trailer stumbled and tripped. In the process he has caught his right

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			leg on the edge of some metal product causing a laceration requiring four stitches.
	Morwell	Laceration to left middle finger	Worker struck his finger with a hammer while removing a lifting rug.
	Laverton North	Crushed left thumb	Worker was lowering a hoist onto the RO-RO machine and got his left thumb caught

Logistics			
Date*	Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
10 May	St Germain	Fractured ribs and pelvis	Worker was driving a petrol tanker when he was involved in a motor vehicle accident with a school bus. Worker sustained nine fractured ribs and a fractured pelvis.
13 May	Port Melbourne	Near miss	Pallet has fallen from a ship's crane during unloading, narrowly missing a worker.
14 May	Knoxfield	Crushed hand	Worker was fitting a tray to a truck when his hand was caught underneath and crushed.
16 May	Simson	Head and neck injuries	Worker was driving a truck and stopped to give way at an intersection in fog, proceeded to cross and was hit by another truck on left hand side. Worker sustained neck, shoulder and hip injuries.
17 May	Keysborough	Fractured foot	Driver arrived at a site to pick up some goods and tried to pull open the truck door from four feet up, lost his balance and fell. He landed heavily on his right shoulder.
	Dandenong South	Chemicals in face	A worker was trying to jump start a truck with a jump start battery kit when the two jump start batteries exploded causing battery acid to splash in the worker's face.
	Laverton North	Near miss	A transporter was overtaking another transporter at a distribution site when a forklift came into its path and clipped the overtaking transporter spilling some cartons.
	Dandenong	Leg fracture	A driver was coming down the step of the bus when his leg gave way and subsequently broke.
18 May	Dandenong South	Near miss	Worker was using a forklift to put a pallet away on level eight, as he was reversing away he was pulling the tines in and lowering them. He felt something on neck shoulder (a cardboard flap from adjacent racking) which caused him to whip around and momentarily lose control, muddling the controls. The tines connected with panels on level seven which then overturned the pallet, knocking it into level six and releasing some stock which fell to ground approximately seven to eight metres. No one was in the vicinity.
	Benalla	Near miss	A forklift was lifting packs of particle board with the tines raised when they failed causing the pack to fall approx two metres to the ground. No one was injured.
	Laverton North	Near miss	A driver failed to engage a handbrake on a ridged vehicle. An employee was in the transporter in the

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			trailer when the ridged vehicle has rolled forward causing the dock plate to fall down. No injuries were reported.
	Moorabbin	Near miss	A forklift driver offloaded stock from a container in a staging area. After finishing he was reversing out and failed to check behind him. As a result he backed into a stack of front load washers (stacked on their own - no pallets), making impact with the stack and causing two loaders weighing 80kg each to fall from a height, one from 2m, the other from 2.6m.
	Sunshine	Near miss	While vehicles were being unloaded/loaded onto a road transporter, the truck driver was struck by a vehicle when it jumped forward when the truck was started.
19 May	Tullamarine	Eye injury	Hydraulic oil from a cargo door mechanism went into the eyes of an employee.
21 May	Laverton	Possible concussion	Worker hit his head on a truck curtain lever and fell to the ground.
	Castlemaine	Near miss	Truck was in the load out area, the driver had gotten out of the truck to go and get paperwork. Driver left the brake off and the truck has travelled 50-60m and struck some pallets and equipment, narrowly missing an employee standing nearby.
22 May	Sea Lake	Unknown injuries	Tip truck rolled over into a gully. Driver being treated for unknown injuries.
23 May	Laverton North	Near miss	Forklift operator was removing a pallet from racking at a height of 5m. Eight cartons of confectionery (weighing approximately 8kg each) fell from that level into the racking.
	Breakwater	Laceration to right thumb	Employee was removing advertising off a bus with a scraper when his hand slipped and the scraper cut him on the thumb.
	Broadmeadows	Near miss	Forklift tines failed when lifting a pallet of cans of soft drink and the pallet dropped.
25 May	West Melbourne	Laceration to right palm	Worker was walking on the hatch lid of a vessel when he slipped and hit his hand on a hock on a pole. The hock went through his right palm to his middle finger. As he fell he also knocked his right leg.
	Clayton South	Fractured right middle finger	Worker was tipping raw ingredients into mixer and on return the bin crushed the right hand middle finger.
	Clayton South	Fractured left middle finger	Worker working a packing line noticed a loaf of bread not in a bag. As he went to retrieve the bread he caught his left middle finger in the conveyor system.
	Altona	Head and leg injuries	Motor vehicle accident in which a vehicle struck a pole. The driver sustained head injuries as a result of striking his head on the windscreen.
	Broadmeadows	Near miss	Worker was in the process of replenishing water and cups at a water fountain when he accidentally kicked a box of plastic cups that fell from the elevated walkway approximately 6m.

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Meat			
Date*	Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
21 May	Colac	Laceration above left eye	A lamb jumped out of the restrainer and knocked over the slaughterman who fell forward and struck his head on a metal bar.
24 May	Cobram	Laceration to forearm	Worker was working on kill line of meat works. He has turned, and as he did so, another employee was stealing his knife. The worker bumped into it causing an injury to his arm.

Food			
Date*	Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
12 May	Colac	Laceration to hand	Worker was trimming skin from a carcass with a knife, not wearing PPE at the time, when she sustained a laceration to finger.
15 May	Rosebud	Electric shock	Worker flicked a switch and got an electric shock.
16 May	Ballarat	Electric shock	Worker attempted to turn on an oven light and received an electric shock.
	Southbank	Laceration	Worker was cutting open a bag of coffee with a knife when she accidentally cut her left hand.
17 May	Boronia	Laceration to index finger	Worker was pulling a dish rack out of the dishwasher with his left hand when he lacerated his left index finger on the side of some tongs.
25 May	Doncaster	Burns to arms and back	Worker sustained burns to his arms and back when a can of aerosol dropped into the deep fryer and exploded.

Retail/Trade			
Date*	Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
10 May	Shepparton	Knee fracture	Customer was shopping and tripped on a display rack, located in the aisle. She sustained a fracture to the left knee.
12 May	Hampton Park	Laceration to foot	Worker sustained laceration to right foot.
13 May	Chadstone	Laceration and suspected fracture of foot	Worker dropped a full gas bottle onto her foot.
14 May	Chirnside park	Soft tissue damage	Worker bent down to open a safe and twisted her knee and was unable to put weight on her leg.
18 May	Laverton North	Near miss	A 6kg carton in 3.5m racking slipped down two metres of the racking and bounced to the ground, landing two metres from a cleaner.
	Carrum Downs	Head injury	Worker was unloading a truck into a warehouse when goods have fallen off the truck (buoyed by the wind) and struck him in the head.
21 May	Broadmeadows	Near miss	A single pallet board came loose and fell one level while the pallet was being lifted by a crane in the pick to belt hall.

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Agriculture/Horticulture			
Date*	Suburb	Injury details	Incident description
12 May	Mill Park	Lacerations	Worker was in the process of mowing grass strips of shopping centre when the mower flicked a piece of wire from under it, striking a pedestrian in the arm as he walked along footpath.
14 May	Bentleigh East	Fractured knee cap	Worker was cleaning some gutters on the edge of a single storey roof when he over-balanced and fell fracturing his right knee cap.
19 May	Heathcote	Near miss	Person rolled a tractor on their own property.
20 May	Cobden	Ear injury	Grandfather took grandson on a quad bike into a paddock. He was repairing a fence when the child started and moved the bike. The bike rolled pinning the child underneath it.
	Burrereo	Near miss	Tractor carrying hay was being driven by a land owner across an occupational bridge when the bridge collapsed under the weight of tractor. The vehicle's front wheels are on land, the back wheels are on the collapsed bridge.
	Weerite	Bruising to foot tendons and muscles	Worker was changing the bucket of a front end loader to put some forks on for big rolls of hay. He put the bucket to the ground and tried to release the quick hitch which created pressure on the front end loader. When released, the loader jammed his foot to the ground.
21 May	Hoddles Creek	Shoulder injury	Male worker has fallen off of the carry-all on the back of a tractor, landing on his shoulder.
	Boort	Near miss	A harvester machine has caught fire and has been destroyed. Suspected electrical fault.
23 May	Skipton	Near miss	A tractor with a combination roller setup was being reversed by an employee off the low loader. The roller's weight has pulled the tractor down and slightly sideways on the ramp causing the tractor to become unbalanced and slowly tip onto its side.
24 May	Glenrowan	Incident	Fire occurred in a shed on a property, the shed contained large quantities of hazardous materials.
	Box Kill	Crush to right index and middle fingers	Employee put timber in the mulcher and a piece of wood flew back at him causing his finger to jam and get caught in the mulcher.
25 May	Warrnambool	Laceration	Employee received a serious laceration when his right index finger got caught in between two gates at a stock sale yard.

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