

Reported incidents

22 October 2015 – 3 November 2015

Since the last edition of Safety Soapbox, there have been 36 incidents, serious enough to be reported to WorkSafe, from the construction, utility, quarrying and mining industries.

Below is a summary of these incidents.

Date	Location	Injury description	Incident summary
22 Oct	Melbourne	Head injury	A two metre long piece of timber fell approx. 13 levels down an air duct shaft and struck a worker on the helmet. The worker sustained a cut to his head and was knocked unconscious.
22 Oct	Ringwood	Electric shock	A worker picked up a lead, plugged it in and received a shock.
22 Oct	Melton	Amputation	A young worker was at his first day as an apprentice and was using a drop saw when he amputated the top of his left thumb.
22 Oct	Melbourne	Laceration and crush	A worker was shifting a steel beam by hand when he got his left middle finger jammed under the beam.
22 Oct	Pakenham	Head injuries	A worker was operating an excavator and backfilling a trench, when a car drove off the highway at approx. 90 kph hitting the excavator. The operator sustained cuts to the top and side of his head and a broken tooth. He lost consciousness for approx. one minute.
22 Oct	Mitcham	Near miss	Struck an abandoned underground gas service.
22 Oct	Ararat	Near miss	Struck gas service doing water main repair.
22 Oct	Port Campbell	Near miss	The ground under the front left hand side outrigger of a 55T crane gave way causing the crane to tilt to one side.
22 Oct	Nagambie	Back and hip injuries	A worker fell approximately three metres off the roof during re-roofing works.
22 Oct	Traralgon	Near miss	A piece of cladding channel (450ml in length) dislodged and fell four metres off scaffold and hit the sloping wall. It bounced under a scaffold and hit a shield. A worker was behind the shield.
22 Oct	Clydebank	Electric shock	A worker was going to install a power point and brushed up against a hot water unit. The hot water unit was live, resulting in an electric shock to the forearm.
23 Oct	Aspendale	Laceration	A test and tag contractor walked out the door to advise tilers that he had turned power back on when he was hit in the head by a roof tile.
23 Oct	Sale	Near miss	Smell of gas coming from construction site. Worker found damaged underground pipe.
23 Oct	Kew	Unknown	A worker was installing timber flooring when he fell one level through the stair void, injuring his wrist.

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26 Oct	Mornington	Bruising	An apprentice was handing a nail gun up to a carpenter who attempted to clip the nail gun to his belt, but it slipped and fell approx. 60cm landing on the apprentices head.
26 Oct	Melbourne	Fracture	A workers foot became trapped under a 1.5 cubic metre bin that was being lifted.
27 Oct	Mooroolbark	Laceration	A worker sustained a cut to his left calf when a piece of wood hit him while stripping formwork.
27 Oct	Point Cook	Near miss	An excavator ruptured a gas service.
27 Oct	Trafalgar East	Concussion, sore ribs and sore hand	A worker was erecting trusses when he fell 2.7 metres onto a concrete slab. He fell through the middle of the roof.
27 Oct	Wheelers Hill	Fracture	A worker was walking on scaffolding, when he tripped and fell on to his arm.
28 Oct	Coburg	Electric shock	A worker has struck the overhead power lines with a piece of scaffold.
28 Oct	Deer Park	Laceration	Whilst grinding from a short ladder, a worker sustained a cut to the small finger on the left hand due to the grinder slipping.
28 Oct	Croydon	Near miss	A worker was in a roof cavity removing an old air conditioning duct as part of renovations, when he cut a live power wire by accident.
29 Oct	Melbourne	Near miss	A fire started on the main deck floor after dome roofing was removed. It is believed the hay roofing smoldered.
29 Oct	Trafalgar	Fracture	A worker fell approx. two metres from a plank between two A frame ladders. He landed on his side, resulting in a break of the left transverse process of L4.
29 Oct	Mount Waverley	Amputations, fractures and other injures	Three workers were injured when an out of control truck crashed into a construction site and pushed the rubbish skip into them.
29 Oct	Malvern	Laceration	A worker was taking rubbish out of a wheelie bin when he cut his left forearm on piece of rubbish.
30 Oct	South Yarra	Near miss	A skid steer loader tipped over when it got too close to the excavation and rolled onto its side.
30 Oct	Armadale	Fracture	A worker was delivering concrete pits to a construction site, when he slipped on gravel and fell onto his wrist.
30 Oct	Melbourne	Near miss	Workers were installing material lift doors when the doors fell approximately 15-20 metres.
30 Oct	Melbourne	Near miss	A section of a concrete shutter (approx. 2m x 1.5 m) fell from level 12 down to level 1, approx. 30 metres.
2 Nov	Geelong	Near miss	Workers performing demolition works were using a petrol driven concrete demolition saw on Level 1; when a fire indicator panel

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			alarm activated. CFA identified high levels of carbon monoxide and evacuated part of the hospital.
2 Nov	White Hills	Puncture	A nail gun discharged and a nail hit a carpenter in the right calf.
3 Nov	Templestowe	Electric shock	A worker suffered an electric shock while installing flexible air-conditioning duct work in a house.
3 Nov	Swan Hill	Fracture	A worker was using a hammer drill when it spun in his hand, resulting in a broken right thumb.

Mining

Date	Industry	Injury description	Incident summary
29 Oct	MINE	Near miss	A 0.5 x 1 x 1 rock has fallen from an eastern wall approximately 0.5 x 0.75 to the ground.