

# Safety is everyone's priority at RMIT

Issue Date: 12 August 2019

## Context:

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of serious and potentially serious incidents reported on RMIT sites in recent months. The following information is provided to our network of Construction Partners to reiterate the importance of safety to RMIT and for all parties working on our sites. **Safety is everyone's priority at RMIT.**

A brief description of recent incidents:

1. **Lost Time Injury (LTI)** - A contractor sustained a crush injury requiring hospital treatment and surgery, when their thumb was caught in a hydraulic activated door
2. **LTI** - A contractor received a deep laceration to their lower leg requiring stitches
3. **Near Miss** - A piece of metal piping approx. 300mm long has fallen 20m and landed near workers
4. **LTI** - A contractor slipped while working on a staircase sustaining ligament damage to their knee
5. **Near Miss** - A contractor fell through a duct penetration, onto floor below (circa 3m), no injuries sustained
6. **Near Miss** - A 10m long ceiling light positioned over a work bench fell from the ceiling landing on the floor
7. **Medical Treatment Injury (MTI)** - worker has sustained a laceration on their left hand, requiring 3 stitches
8. **Near Miss** - Contractor carrying out live electrical work

## Common findings from investigations:

- Risk assessment incomplete e.g. not all risks associated with the task were identified; or not conducted at all
- Operator placed in the **line of fire** e.g. exclusion zone not in place when work is been carried out over head
- Edge protection not in place around floor penetration
- Poor housekeeping
- Rushing to get the job complete
- Slip or lapse in concentration
- Inappropriate or incomplete personal protective equipment (PPE) in place
- Inappropriate ceiling fixing method used and lack of quality control in place to ensure correct installation
- Lack of adequate supervision

## Actions Required

- Before starting works, take time to ensure all hazards and risks have been identified and that appropriate controls are in place to protect yourself, your work crew and the broader RMIT community
- All **high-risk construction works** require a site specific safe work method statement (SWMS)
- Tasks including **work at heights** at RMIT, must include:
  - Control of dropped objects e.g. tethering of tools, install of safety mesh
  - Dropped object exclusion zone
  - Mandatory install of edge protection where risk of worker exposed to a live edge, including for floor penetrations
- Review manual handling tasks and controls required to prevent hand injuries
- Communicate to all that **no live electrical work is to be carried out** on RMIT sites
- Review housekeeping of all work areas at RMIT and remove any hazards identified

## Who Needs to Know

This alert is to be communicated to all Property Services personnel and all Property Services Construction Partners, including building contractors and designers.

For more information visit Worksafe Victoria:

- [Safe Work Method Statements for High Risk Construction Works](#)
- [Compliance Code: Demolition](#)
- [Compliance Code: Prevention of Falls in General Construction](#)

Please direct any feedback or questions to RMIT at [ContractorSafety@rmit.edu.au](mailto:ContractorSafety@rmit.edu.au)