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Ministry of Labour

Richmond Hill homeowner fined \$20,000 for health and safety violation

NEWMARKET, ON, June 26 /CNW/ - A homeowner, who was overseeing construction of a new family residence in Richmond Hill, Ont., was fined \$20,000 on June 20, 2003 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in the death of a worker.

On April 1, 2002, a trim carpenter, who was hired to install door and window trim at a new two-storey home, fell about 3.2 metres (10.5 feet) through a stairwell opening on the first floor to the basement below. The worker was taken to Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, where the worker died the next day. A Ministry of Labour investigation found there were no guardrails at the sides of the stairwell opening. The incident occurred at a home being constructed on Tennison Road in Richmond Hill.

The homeowner pleaded guilty, as a constructor, to failing to ensure a guardrail system was used where a worker had access to the perimeter or open side of a floor and was exposed to a fall of 2.4 metres (eight feet) or more. This was contrary to Section 23(1)(a) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Connie Hartt of the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act.

Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
The Tannery Mall
465 Davis Drive, Courtroom T2
Newmarket, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Connie Hartt

Date / Time: June 20, 2003, 1:30 p.m.

Defendant: A Homeowner

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

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