

06-38

For Immediate Release
March 31, 2006

BELLEVUE FABRICATING LTD. FINED \$75,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

BELLEVILLE, Ont. – Bellevue Fabricating Ltd., a Belleville manufacturer of metal components such as structural steel, duct systems and piping, was fined \$75,000 on March 29, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in a serious leg injury to an employee.

On October 21, 2003, a millwright/painter was helping to move a large “truss” (a component in a structural steel frame) to a spray-painting area when the truss fell on the worker’s leg, pinning it between the truss and the ground. The truss weighed between 1,655 and 1,659 kilograms (3,648 and 3,658 pounds). The incident resulted in the millwright/painter having the leg amputated just below the knee. At the time of the incident the millwright/painter had been on the ground and had just finished putting the second of two loops, one on each end of a sling, onto the fork of a lift truck that was being used by a second worker to lift the truss. The sling was wrapped around the truss. The second loop was placed six inches from the tip of the fork, but it came off as the truss was lifted, resulting in the truss falling. The incident occurred at the company’s plant at 525 Bellevue Drive in Belleville.

Bellevue Fabricating Ltd. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to take the reasonable precaution of having a safe procedure for moving the truss. This was contrary to Section 25(2)(h) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace Sam Cureatz of the Ontario Court of Justice in Belleville. In addition, the court imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

-30-

Contacts:
Belinda Sutton
Ministry of Labour
416-326-7405

Jennifer Malabar
Crown Counsel
Legal Services Branch
Ministry of Labour
416-212-7508

Court Information at a Glance

Location: Ontario Court of Justice
235 Pinnacle Street, Courtroom 303
Belleville, Ontario

Judge: Justice of the Peace Sam Cureatz

Date / Time: March 29, 2006, 9 a.m.

Defendant: Bellevue Fabricating Ltd.

Matter: Occupational Health & Safety

Disponible en français

www.labour.gov.on.ca