

06-09

For Immediate Release
January 23, 2006

C. L. CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL CONTRACTORS LIMITED FINED \$100,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

SCARBOROUGH, Ont. – C.L. Construction & General Contractors Limited, a construction company based in Concord, Ont., was fined \$100,000 today for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in injuries to four workers at a construction site in Toronto.

On December 9, 2003, workers were engaged in the forming and pouring of concrete foundation walls when an extendable boom on a concrete pump truck came into contact with an energized, 27,600-volt overhead powerline. The truck operator suffered burns to a thumb and foot. A second worker, who was holding a hose connected to the boom, suffered severe burns to both hands and feet. The electrical current also flowed into an adjacent ready-mix concrete truck causing a third worker, who was standing on the truck's rear platform, to be knocked to the ground. While the third worker was being assisted by a fourth worker, the electrical current caused one of the ready-mix concrete truck's tires to explode. Both the third and fourth workers were struck by the tire and thrown through the air, landing on hard surfaces. Both workers received cuts and bruises and the fourth worker also suffered burns to a leg. The incident occurred at a five-storey office building, which was under construction at 170 Sheppard Avenue East in Toronto. The project was being built by C.L. Construction & General Contractors Limited, which had subcontracted out some of the forming and pouring of concrete to three other companies. The injured workers were employed by the sub-contracted companies.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found there was no signaller to warn the operator of the concrete pump truck when the truck's boom approached the energized overhead electrical conductor.

C.L. Construction & General Contractors Limited pleaded guilty, as a constructor, to failing to ensure a competent worker, designated as a signaller, with a clear view of the equipment and overhead electrical conductor, was stationed in full view of the equipment operator in order to be able to warn the operator each time any part of the equipment approached within three metres of the conductor, as required by Section 187(3) of the Regulations for Construction Projects. This was contrary to Section 23(1)(a) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice James Bubba of the Ontario Court of Justice in Scarborough. 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.

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Court Information at a Glance

Location:	Ontario Court of Justice 1530 Markham Road, Courtroom E8 Scarborough, Ontario
Judge:	Justice James Bubba
Date / Time:	January 23, 2006, 9 a.m.
Defendant:	C.L. Construction & General Contractors Limited
Matter:	Occupational Health & Safety

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