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For Immediate Release
March 3, 2006

MOHAWK HOSPITAL SERVICES INCORPORATED FINED \$50,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION

HAMILTON, Ont. – Mohawk Hospital Services Incorporated, a Hamilton-based, non-profit enterprise that operates a commercial laundry facility for Hamilton area hospitals, was fined \$50,000 on February 27, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in injuries to an employee.

On January 5, 2004, an electrician was inside an industrial dryer attempting to remove a stuck towel when the dryer activated and began to cycle. At the time of the incident the electrician was rocking the dryer's rotating drum while trying to pull free the towel, which was caught between the drum and an external plate on the dryer. A dryer operator had called in the electrician because the stuck towel had caused the dryer to stop. When the dryer began to cycle, another worker turned off the power at the dryer's main control panel. As a result of the incident, the electrician suffered a small laceration to the right side of the head and a cracked tooth. The incident occurred at the enterprise's laundry facility at 60 Chedmac Drive in Hamilton.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the dryer's control switches were not locked out to prevent the dryer from starting while the towel was being removed.

Mohawk Hospital Services Incorporated pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the dryer's control switches or other control mechanisms were locked out, and other effective precautions were taken, to prevent the dryer from starting, as required by Section 76 of the Regulations for Industrial Establishments. This was contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the act.

The fine was imposed by Justice Donald Cooper of the Ontario Court of Justice in Hamilton. 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

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| Location: | Ontario Court of Justice 45 Main Street East, Courtroom 308 Hamilton, Ontario |
| Judge: | Justice Donald Cooper |
| Date / Time: | February 27, 2006, 10 a.m. |
| Defendant: | Mohawk Hospital Services Incorporated |
| Matter: | Occupational Health & Safety |

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