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For Immediate Release  
June 27, 2006

## **FISHER & LUDLOW FINED \$60,000 FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATION**

BURLINGTON, Ont. – Fisher & Ludlow, a Burlington-based manufacturer of steel mats, was fined \$60,000 on June 26, 2006 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in a serious hand injury to an employee.

On September 28, 2004, a worker was working on a production line that welded together and cropped steel rods to make steel matting for flooring material and other uses when the welding side of the line stopped. The worker reached into a welding machine to pull out a rod when the worker noticed a spark and the machine began to cycle. The worker's right hand became trapped, resulting in crushing injuries to two fingers. The incident occurred at the company's plant at 750 Appleby Line in Burlington.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found the welding and cropping sides of the production line were protected with "interlocked gates" or "light curtain guards" (electronic devices designed to shut down machines to prevent worker access to pinch points). However, it was possible for a worker to bypass the guards in one area and access the back of the welding machine without shutting down the machine.

Fisher & Ludlow pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to lock out a machine, 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 of the Peace Jerry Woloschuk of the Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington. 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-

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Court Information at a Glance

**Location:** Ontario Court of Justice  
2051 Plains Road East, Courtroom 2  
Burlington, Ontario

**Judge:** Justice of the Peace Jerry Woloschuk

**Date / Time:** June 26, 2006, 9 a.m.

**Defendant:** Fisher & Ludlow

**Matter:** Occupational Health & Safety

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