



Trenton Company Fined \$55,000 After Worker Injured by Steel Struts

November 22, 2017 4:15 P.M.

Convicted: Frazier Industrial Company operating as Fracan, 163 North Murray Street, Trenton, Ontario, a steel fabrication facility.

Location: 163 North Murray Street, Trenton.

Description of Offence: A worker who was moving a bundle of steel using an overhead crane suffered permanent crushing injuries when an outer steel strut in the bundle moved inward.

Date of Offence: March 8, 2016.

Date of Conviction: November 22, 2017.

Penalty Imposed

- Fracan was fined \$55,000 by Justice of the Peace Christopher I. Peltzer in Belleville court at 235 Pinnacle Street; Crown Counsel Jai Dhar.
- The court also 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.

Background

- A worker was given the task of moving a bundle of steel using an overhead crane. The bundle consisted of 20 steel struts stacked in four rows with three-inch wooden spacers between each row. The bundled weighed about 2,600 pounds and was 20.5 feet long.
- The worker used a set of lifting chains attached to the overhead crane to move the bundle and was holding onto the bundle to keep it steady as it lifted.
- As the load was being raised, one of the outer steel struts in the bundle suddenly moved inward and pressed against the next steel strut.
- The worker suffered a crushing injury which resulted in a permanent injury.
- The investigation by the Ministry of Labour revealed that it was common for the steel struts to shift in this manner when being moved by overhead cranes.
- Section 45(a) of *Ontario Regulation 851 (the Industrial Establishments Regulation)* states that materials, articles or things required to be lifted, carried or moved, shall be lifted, carried or moved in a manner that does not endanger the safety of any worker.

Michael Speers Minister's Office
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