



Worker Suffers Burns, Company Fined \$70,000

September 29, 2017 3:00 P.M.

WOODSTOCK, ON - A Woodstock employer has pleaded guilty and has been fined \$70,000 after a worker suffered chemical burns.

The employer, Bridgestone Canada Inc. operating as Firestone Textiles Company, owns and operates a plant in Woodstock, where it manufactures textile products.

The incident took place on September 14, 2015, at the company's 1200 Dundas Street, Woodstock plant. A technician was attempting to dispense sulfuric acid to be used in the lab for conducting tests. The sulfuric acid was contained in a 45-gallon drum equipped with an electric pump, hose and nozzle to transfer the acid into the desired container. The worker was attempting to fill a two-litre plastic bottle in this way, when the hose nozzle attached to the bottle detached under pressure. The worker suffered minor chemical burns.

The worker was exposed to the hazard of injury from contact of skin with acid, a noxious liquid, and was not wearing apparel sufficient to protect from injury.

Section 84 of the Regulation for Industrial Establishments prescribes that "a worker exposed to the hazard of injury from contact of the worker's skin with a noxious gas, liquid, fume or dust shall be protected by wearing apparel sufficient to protect the worker from injury." The court found that Bridgestone failed as an employer to ensure that the measures and procedures prescribed by the regulation were carried out at the workplace. This is contrary to the Occupational Health and Safety Act's section 25(1)(c) and section 66(1).

Justice of the Peace Michael A. Cuthbertson imposed a fine of \$70,000 in Woodstock court on September 29, 2017.

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.

Court Information at a Glance

Location:

Provincial Offences Court/Ontario Court of Justice

415 Hunter Street

Woodstock, Ontario

Judge:

Justice of the Peace Michael A. Cuthbertson

Date of Sentencing:

September 29, 2017

Defendant:

Bridgestone Canada Inc.

operating as

Firestone Textiles Company

Head office:

5770 Hurontario Street, Suite 400

Mississauga, Ontario

Workplace:

1200 Dundas Street

Woodstock, Ontario

Matter:

Occupational health and safety

Convictions:

Occupational Health and Safety Act

Section 25(1)(c)

Section 66(1)

Regulation 851 (Industrial Establishments Regulation)

Section 84

Crown Counsel:

Judy L. Chan/Graeme Adams

Janet Deline Communications Branch
For media inquiries only: MOLMedialine@ontario.ca
416-326-7405
Michael Speers Minister's Office
For media inquiries only:
416-325-6955

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