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## **Alberta trucking company, worker fined nearly \$300,000**

*By: Canadian OH&S News*

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CALGARY (Canadian OH&S News)

An Alberta trucking company and a worker have been fined a combined total of nearly \$300,000 following the death of a worker in August of 2008.

On October 24, Denel Trucking (335590 Alberta Ltd) and company worker Keith Hargrave were fined \$286,500 and \$10,000, respectively, after pleading guilty to charges under the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), says information from the employment and immigration branch of the Ministry of Human Services (MHS).

Denel Trucking pleaded guilty to Section 2(1)(a)(i) of the OHSA and was ordered to pay \$144,000 to the Job Safety Skills Society (\$109,000 to be allocated for the JobSafe Program and \$35,000 to establish a scholarship program in honour of the deceased worker); \$131,000 to the Alberta Motor Transport Association for the development of a course for the safe operation of specialized long combination vehicles; a \$10,000 fine and a \$1,500 victim surcharge.

Hargrave, for his part, pleaded guilty to Section 2(2) of the OHSA for failing to protect his own safety and that of other workers and was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. No other companies or employees were charged, says MHS spokesman Barrie Harrison.

### **Worker just weeks away from turning 21**

The incident that spurred the penalty occurred just before 10 am on August 8, 2008 in Calgary. That day, James Rintoul, who was less a month away from his 21st birthday, was fatally injured after he was run over by a transport trailer in the yard of Volker Stevin Contracting Ltd, where Denel Trucking had rented space, Harrison says.

The updated information from the ministry says that the accident occurred as a driver was slowly moving a truck with two attached trailers to a wash bay in the property's backyard. The young worker was walking and steering the rear trailer from controls located on a dolly on the driver's side of the trailer when he was run over by the trailer's rear wheels, the information says.

An agreed statement of facts says that Rintoul was walking alongside the dolly when his foot became caught under the wheels of the dolly, pinching him between the equipment and a scrap metal bin located next to a metal rack.

He began calling for help and a Volker Stevin mechanic who observed the incident began yelling at Hargrave, who was acting as a spotter, to get the driver to stop the transporter, but he did not receive any response from the spotter. The mechanic rushed over, but was unable to pull Rintoul free of the rear wheels of the trailer, the agreed statement says.

In convicting Hargrave, the statement notes that he had left his spotting position and failed to maintain any sight of, or contact with, Rintoul.

### **9. Gifts to avoid,**

says Louis Fox, include extravagant gifts (poor strategy and poor taste that can send the wrong message); explicitly religious holiday gifts; and humorous gifts unless you know beyond a doubt that the recipient shares your sense of humour. In addition, Julie Blais Comeau says that anything of an intimate nature is inappropriate particularly if the item has a sexual connotation. A bouquet of a dozen red roses is also on her do-not-give list. Associated with romance, it is not a corporate gift and she says, "If you should receive red roses, you must absolutely decline them." Other gifts to give with caution include wine, alcohol and tobacco products.

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