



Media Release - SafeWork SA

Friday 12 June 2009

BUILDING CONTRACTOR FINED OVER 7m FALL

An Adelaide company has been convicted and fined in the SA Industrial Relations Court over an incident, which left an employee seriously injured after a fall.

Today **Candetti Constructions Pty Ltd** was convicted and fined \$47,500 after being found guilty in an earlier trial of breaching section 19(1) of the *Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986* in failing to ensure as far as reasonably practicable, the safety of an employee.

The incident occurred in April 2005 during work to install cool room panels at a Gepps Cross premises. A man employed by a subcontractor to the defendant fell a distance of 7.2 metres through an opening in a suspended ceiling to the concrete floor below.

He sustained fractures to his pelvis and wrist, nerve damage, severe bruising, broken teeth and a lacerated forehead. The court heard his medical issues remain ongoing.

In its investigation, SafeWork SA found that the opening in the ceiling was completely unprotected at the time, and today Industrial Magistrate Richard Hardy said the defendant did not carry far enough, the safety measures it had already identified regarding fall protection.

Candetti Constructions Pty Ltd was the second defendant in this matter. In August 2007, the injured worker's direct employer, Ace Panel Systems Pty Ltd was fined \$33,000 after pleading guilty to the same breach of the Act.

COUNTRY SAWMILL FINED

Also today, **Morgan Sawmill Jamestown** and its three principals were fined \$12,600 over an incident at its Jamestown premises in January 2007, which left a worker injured.

The court heard how a male worker sustained finger injuries adjusting a timber-moulding machine whilst it was still running. He has since recovered and returned to work.

SafeWork SA prosecuted after finding that a safety interlock device, which would have prevented the access to the machine whilst in operation, had been removed and bypassed. This occurred during a 6-month wait for a replacement interlock to come from overseas.

Magistrate Hardy recorded a conviction but reduced the penalty by 30 percent for the defendant's cooperation, contrition, assistance to the injured worker, improved safety practices and early guilty plea.

For answers and advice on workplace health and safety and the relevant laws, call SafeWork SA's telephone Help Centre on 1 300 365 255. To report serious accidents or incidents, in the workplace call 1 800 777 209