



# Media Release - SafeWork SA

---

Thursday 11 March 2010

## INJURIES FROM MOVING PARTS SEE EMPLOYERS FINED

**Total fines in excess of \$50,000 have been imposed on three employers by the Industrial Court today for machinery incidents that left their employees with hand and arm injuries.**

All three parties had earlier pleaded guilty to breaches of the *Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986*, in failing to provide safe systems of work, failing to provide plant in a safe condition, and in one case failing to provide adequate instruction and training.

**Coromandel Valley Construction Enterprises Pty Ltd** was convicted and fined \$26,000 over an incident in September 2007 at a Kingston Park construction site.

A 19 year old male apprentice was injured when the circular power saw he was working with kicked back and cut into his left forearm, resulting in severe bone, tendon, nerve and soft tissue injuries.

SafeWork SA told the court that the apprentice was instructed to hold the saw in one hand while using the other to secure the timber being cut; a method that Magistrate Michael Ardlie agreed was:

*"...clearly inadequate and hazardous given the lack of experience on the part of (the apprentice)... The defendant failed to carry out any adequate hazard identification and risk assessment for the task..."*

The business has since been sold, and new safety systems have been put in place.

In another matter, **Orrcon Operations Pty Ltd** was convicted and fined \$22,400 over an incident in October 2007 at its O'Sullivan's Beach manufacturing facility.

An employee suffered injuries to three fingers of his right hand when they were caught in the unguarded chain and sprocket of a steel-milling machine, following some maintenance work.

Magistrate Ardlie noted that there were extensive safety systems in place and the trapping point involved was not accessible during the machine's normal operation mode:

*"Whilst the defendant had considered in some detail the operation of the plant it had not considered the trapping point... being accessible in the way the employee accessed it."*

This was the defendant's second conviction since 2006 and so faced a higher maximum penalty of \$200,000, but it received credit for its early plea, cooperation, contrition and prompt remedial action.

[more]



In the third matter concluded by Magistrate Ardlie today, **Lane Brothers Printers Pty Ltd** was convicted and fined \$9,000 over an incident in August 2007 at its Camden Park premises.

A female employee suffered a crush injury to a fingertip of her left hand whilst manually operating a book-stapling machine.

SafeWork SA's investigation found that the operator had access to the machine's moving parts.

A new and more effective guard has since been fitted, and a full risk analysis of the facility has been completed and acted upon. This was the company's first safety breach in more than 37 years of operation.

"Contact with moving machinery is one of the most common causes of workplace injury," says SafeWork SA Executive Director, Michele Patterson.

"These three cases highlight the need to rigorously factor safety into all facets of work, especially the plant and equipment involved and the work practices themselves.

"The vast majority of incidents of harm such as these are foreseeable and avoidable, provided the appropriate analysis identifies all situations which may arise, no matter how unusual or infrequent."

*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*