



Contractor Fined For Working Illegally Without a Licence or Electrical Permit

Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) reminds Ontarians to verify credentials when hiring someone to do electrical work

Mississauga, ON /October 17, 2013 - On Oct. 11, 2013, an unlicensed electrical contractor was convicted in a St. Catharines, Ontario court on charges related to performing electrical work illegally.

Anthony Ianniello of Niagara Falls was found guilty on one count of performing electrical work without an electrical contractor's licence and one count of failing to apply for an application for inspection. The total fine was \$1,500 for the violations and victim impact surcharge. Under Ontario Regulation 570/05, Licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians, only Licensed Electrical Contractors are permitted to contract to perform electrical work in Ontario.

Ianniello, working under the company name Guardian Security, completed an electrical installation of 100 devices including lighting and electrical outlets as part of a Niagara Falls fitness club renovation. Many of these devices were in high-traffic areas, presenting an increased risk of harm to the public. Ianniello did not hold a valid electrical contractor licence and was not legally allowed to perform the electrical work.

"Unfortunately, there are individuals who present themselves as being able to do electrical work when they don't hold the appropriate licence and they don't follow the rules and regulations. ESA will continue to be vigilant in our efforts to identify these unlicensed contractors and prosecute them as a deterrent to others who choose not to follow the rules and put the public at risk by doing so," said Normand Breton, ESA's General Manager, Harm Mitigation, who oversees ESA's electrical contractor licensing system.

"We remind anyone considering hiring someone to do electrical work to follow 'the three Cs': **check** to ensure the contractor holds a valid electrical contractor licence (you can search the database at www.esasafe.com); **confirm** that they are arranging the appropriate inspections from ESA; and **call** ESA at 1-877-ESA-SAFE (1-877-372-7233) if you suspect someone is misrepresenting themselves."

ESA reminds consumers of the requirement to ensure that anyone you hire to perform electrical work has a valid ECRA/ESA Electrical Contractor Licence. This will ensure that the Electrical Contractor you have hired:

- is fully insured
- uses qualified electricians to perform the electrical work you require
- will arrange for permits with the ESA
- can deliver an ESA Certificate of Inspection
- can provide references
- will prepare a written cost estimate of the work

About the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) is an administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario with specific responsibilities under the Electricity Act and the Safety and Consumer Statutes Administration Act. As part of its mandate, ESA is responsible for administering regulation in four key

areas: the Ontario Electrical Safety Code; licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians; electrical distribution safety; and electrical product safety.

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