



Repeat offences lead to heavy fines for furnace and air conditioning contractor in Guelph area

Halls Heat and Cool Inc. convicted twice and fined a total of \$31,900 in the past eight months for doing electrical work without a licence or permit

MISSISSAUGA, ON (June 28, 2016) – Halls Heat and Cool Inc., a furnace and air conditioning contractor operating in the Guelph, Ontario area, was convicted in a Guelph, Ontario court on April 27, 2016 and fined \$25,000 on charges relating to doing electrical work without an electrical contractor's licence and failing to take out the proper electrical permit. This is the second time in eight months this company has been convicted for violations of this kind.

The company was previously convicted and fined \$6,900 last year in Guelph on November 2, 2015 for violations associated with not having an electrical contractor licence and failing to apply for an electrical permit and inspection.

“Halls Heat and Cool has repeatedly flouted the law and potentially put the safety of their customers and the public at risk,” said Normand Breton, ESA's Registrar and Director of Contractor Licensing. “ESA has followed up on the sites where the electrical work was done to ensure inspections have taken place and that the installations are in compliance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code.”

All fines include 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.

In Ontario, heating and air conditioning contractors can perform limited electrical work according to their trade qualifications such as connecting an air conditioning unit to an electrical panel or a furnace to an existing electrical circuit. For this work, they are required to take out electrical permits with the Electrical Safety. Any electrical work beyond their scope must be done by a Licensed Electrical Contractor.

When hiring someone to do work, homeowners and businesses are reminded to check to ensure the contractor does only what they are allowed to do by law, holds all required qualifications and licenses and secures all appropriate permits and inspections. Homeowners and businesses should request a copy of the ESA certificate of inspection from the contractor once the work and inspection is complete.

About the Electrical Safety Authority

The Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA's) role is to enhance public electrical safety in Ontario. As an administrative authority acting on behalf of the Government of Ontario, ESA is responsible for administering specific regulations related to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, the licensing of Electrical Contractors and Master Electricians, electricity distribution system safety, and electrical product safety. ESA works extensively with stakeholders throughout the province on education, training and promotion to foster electrical safety across the province. More information on the Electrical Safety Authority can be found at www.esasafe.com, through <https://twitter.com/homeandsafety> and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ElectricalSafetyAuthority.

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