

Contractor Convicted and Fined for Doing Electrical Work without Licence

Electrical Safety Authority reminds Ontarians to check credentials when hiring someone to do electrical work

Mississauga, ON – June 11, 2013. On May 29, 2013 an unlicensed contractor was convicted in a Sudbury, Ontario court of charges related to performing electrical work illegally and failing to apply for an inspection.

George St. Louis, a sub-contractor working in Chelmsford, Ontario, 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 inspection. The total fine was \$4,000 for the violations plus a \$1,000 victim impact surcharge. All fees are paid to the Court. A victim impact surcharge is an additional monetary penalty that is used to provide programs, services and assistance to victims within the provincial jurisdiction. 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.

Mr. St. Louis was sub-contracted by a siding company to replace siding and windows. In the course of the installation, he moved some light fixtures and an electrical outlet. Mr. St. Louis did not hold a valid electrical contractor licence and was not legally allowed to perform the electrical work.

“Unfortunately, there are individuals that are prepared to do electrical work when they don't hold the appropriate licence and they don't follow the rules and regulations. If you hire them or your general contractor hires them, you may end up with unsafe electrical wiring, and may need to arrange to have a licenced electrical contractor make repairs to their work,” said Doug Crawford, ESA's Chief Public Safety Officer.

“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.” Lastly, if you have hired a general contractor, (or others who may sub contract work being done for you) insist that they hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor to complete any electrical work being done.

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

About the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA)

The Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) role is to enhance public electrical safety in Ontario. As a delegated 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 on its website, www.esasafe.com, through Twitter @HomeandSafety and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ElectricalSafetyAuthority

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