



Hamilton Excavator Fined \$12,000 for Gas Pipeline Strike

TSSA successfully prosecutes contractor for unsafe digging practices

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, May 1, 2015) – The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) successfully prosecuted LM Enterprises, an excavation company in Hamilton Ontario, for damaging a natural gas pipeline.

The Ontario Court of Justice in Hamilton accepted LM Enterprises guilty plea and fined the company \$12,000 plus the mandatory 25% victim fine surcharge for a total penalty of \$15,000.

“These are serious violations of Ontario’s public safety rules that put homeowners and business, as well as excavators, in real danger,” said John Marshall, Director of TSSA’s Fuels Safety Program. “Thankfully no one was hurt, but public safety shouldn’t be left to luck. That’s why Ontario has stringent laws around pipeline safety, including a requirement to obtain a locate before even breaking ground,” added Mr. Marshall.

In February 2013, a TSSA inspector received notice of a 2-inch steel natural gas pipeline strike in Hamilton, and upon further investigation determined that the incident was the fault of a contractor for LM Enterprises, a vendor for the city. The incident left 27 businesses and residences in the area without gas.

TSSA reminds the public that any excavation work must comply with Ontario’s safety laws, including obtaining a valid pipeline locate from the license holder or gas utility before breaking ground. Free locates can be obtained from Ontario One Call at 1-800-400-2255 or visit <http://on1call.com>.

Ontario Regulation 210/01 prohibits interfering with or damaging a pipeline and any damage and/or subsequent release of gas should be immediately reported to the Ministry of Environment’s Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060 or by contacting TSSA toll-free at 1-877-682-8772.

About TSSA

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is Ontario’s public safety regulator mandated by the Government of Ontario to enforce provincial safety regulations and enhance public safety. Throughout Ontario, TSSA regulates the safety of amusement devices, boilers and pressure vessels, elevating devices, fuels, operating engineers, ski lifts, and upholstered and stuffed articles. Its range of safety services include public education and consumer information, certification, licensing and registration, engineering design review, inspections, investigations, safety management consultation, and enforcement and prosecution activities. The organization’s vision is to be a valued advocate and recognized authority in public safety.

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For more information on the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit www.tssa.org.