



## Media Release

Unauthorized Hamilton Fuels Technician  
Convicted of Safety Violations

### Hamilton Fuels Technician Guilty of Safety Violations

*\$8,000 fine for not having a valid TSSA Certificate*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, December 1, 2014)** – Ontario’s public safety regulator, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), has successfully prosecuted an unlicensed gas technician for installing a natural gas furnace without holding a valid TSSA certificate and failing to ensure its safety before activating it.

In December 2013, Robert Spearing, operating as Blue Flame Inspections Services, began installation of a natural gas furnace at a Hamilton residence but could not complete the task. Spearing attached temporary venting before completing the job, so the homeowner would have heat; however, the temporary venting created a serious carbon monoxide hazard (CO). The area gas supplier tagged the furnace as unsafe for use. Upon further investigation by TSSA, it was determined that Spearing was working with an expired TSSA fuels certificate.

The Ontario Court of Justice in Hamilton levied a fine of \$8,000, plus the mandatory 25% victim surcharge, against Robert Spearing for violating the *Technical Standards and Safety Act, 2000*.

“Potentially lethal CO risks can be created if a fuel-fired appliance is not properly installed or serviced,” said John Marshall, Director of TSSA’s Fuels Safety Program. “Anyone installing, repairing or servicing fuel-fired appliances must possess a valid TSSA certification and heed all applicable safety standards.”

If in doubt of a technician’s certification, contact TSSA toll-free at [1-877-682-8772](tel:1-877-682-8772) to confirm whether a gas technician is properly certified.

#### *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, please contact:**

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For more information on the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org).

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