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July 24th - July 30th



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(From Left to Right) Megan Dickie, Aidan Dermitt and Lennon & Cameron Harrison

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Home assembly company fined after worker falls

A home assembly company has been fined after a worker was seriously injured last year while working at a home building warehouse on Tremaine Road.

Stelumar Advanced Manufacturing Inc. was fined \$65,000 Monday after it pleaded guilty to failing to ensure guardrails were installed around stairwell openings under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

On September 24, 2008, a worker at the warehouse — where Mattamy homes were churned out on an assembly line until it ceased production earlier this year — fell four metres through staircase



FILE PHOTO BY GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
Emergency personnel respond to the scene of the 2008 fall.

openings to the factory floor below. He was knocked unconscious and suffered injuries to his chest and arm. An investigation by the Ontario Ministry of Labour found no guardrails had been installed.

Keep outdoor potted plants moist

• from PEAT on page A3

from the sun and the heat eventually breaks down the peat moss components and it ignites," Coull said.

Although he can't prove that's what happened, he said he's seen it happen often enough to believe that's what happened in this case.

A quick Google search turns up thousands of hits on the topic of potting soil and spontaneous combustion. An article on the site of Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal said it's possible but extremely unlikely.

Coull said the danger lies in leaving an unwatered, dried-out pot of peat moss or potting soil (which can be about 80 per cent peat moss) in the sun.

Another more understandable recipe for

disaster occurs when residents put out cigarette butts in dried out soil or peat moss because it looks like plain old dirt.

But Coull said cigarettes burns out after a matter of hours, so he's confident a cigarette butt had nothing to do with the Moreau Lane fire.

He said he has seen similar fires where the residents hadn't been home for weeks or were non-smokers. "I've had enough fires to say I'm concerned with this."

He added the fertilizer in potting soil could also have something to do with its ability to ignite.

Regardless, he advises residents to keep their outdoor potted plants moist.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Man suffers facial burns in plant fire

A man suffered burns to his face last Friday afternoon when a flash fire broke out at a local manufacturing company.

Police said the 33-year-old Toronto man was work-

ing on an air conditioning unit on the roof of Elton Manufacturing on Wheelabrator Way at about 12:30 p.m. when the fire started.

He was rushed to Milton

District Hospital with second-degree burns to his face and forearms and then transferred to Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour is investigating.

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