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Search



Advanced Search | A-Z Index



OSHA News Release

2005 - 02/02/2005 - Nine New York Contractors Face \$98,400 in OSHA Fines for Safety Hazards at Three Brooklyn Construction Sites

[← OSHA News Release - Table of Contents](#)

OSHA Regional News Release

**U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs**

Region 2

Region 2 News Release: 05-163-NEW/BOS 2005-018
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Contact: Ted Fitzgerald
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Nine New York Contractors Face \$98,400 in OSHA Fines for Safety Hazards at Three Brooklyn Construction Sites

BROOKLYN, N.Y. -- Nine area contractors face a total of \$98,400 in fines for 56 alleged serious and repeat violations of workplace safety standards at three Brooklyn construction projects: the Marcy Homes and Marcus Garvey Homes residential construction projects and the TPT Rehab project. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) fined the employers after inspections begun Nov. 29, 2004 in response to employee complaints of unsafe working conditions.

"It's particularly disturbing to see many of the same hazards at three different jobsites overseen by the same general contractor," said Antonio Pietroluongo, OSHA's acting Manhattan area director. "Left uncorrected, these conditions expose employees to potential serious injury or death from falls, electrocution, scaffold collapse, gas cylinder explosions or head injuries."

Great American Construction Corp., Mt. Vernon, the general contractor for the three projects, was fined \$25,350 for lack of fall protection and fall protection training; unsecured floor hole covers; uncleared debris; ladder and stairway hazards; various electrical hazards; improper storage of compressed gas cylinders; and failing to perform an engineering survey and to inspect the jobsite.

S&L Magic Construction Corp., Glendale, was fined \$33,600 for failing to train employees in unsafe conditions, fall and scaffold hazards and the proper use of ladders; no fall protection for employees working on a scaffold; unstable objects used to support scaffolding; improperly secured compressed gas cylinders; unsecured and unmarked floor hole covers; not wearing protective helmets; and electrical, ladder and stairway hazards.

Also cited were: Reliant Electrical, Brooklyn, fined \$14,200; W&H Associates Construction, New York City, fined \$9,200; CMU Specialties Inc., Brooklyn, fined \$6,000; Papasidero Marble and Tile, LLC, Somers, fined \$3,750; Service Plus Plumbing and Heating Co. Inc., the Bronx, fined \$2,850; ANR Electrical Contracting, Long Island City, fined \$2,100; and Caapuci Drywall, Woodside, fined \$1,350. Among the violations for which the contractors were cited were electrical, scaffold, ladder and stairway hazards; lack of head and eye protection; unguarded wall openings and an unguarded grinder; and failure to conduct inspections and to train workers to recognize unsafe conditions.

Each company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations to request and participate in an

informal conference with the OSHA area director or to contest them before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. The inspection was conducted by OSHA's Manhattan area office, 201 Varick St., Room 908, New York, N.Y. The office's telephone number is (212) 620-3200.

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

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 [OSHA News Release - Table of Contents](#)

 [Back to Top](#)

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