



MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Labor Issues Stop Work Orders to 17 Companies

*Orders issued Oct. 27 to Nov. 3 – work halted at
construction sites in Greenwich, Willimantic, Groton*

WETHERSFIELD, Nov. 21, 2011 – The Connecticut Department of Labor’s Division of Wage and Workplace Standards investigators issued Stop Work orders to 18 companies working at construction project sites in Greenwich, Willimantic and Groton from Oct. 27 through Nov. 3, 2011 State Labor Commissioner Glenn Marshall announced today.

Stop Work orders are levied against companies that misclassify workers as independent contractors with the intent of avoiding avoid their obligations under federal and state employment laws covering such matters as workers’ compensation, unemployment taxes and payroll reporting. Stop Work orders result in the halting of all activity at a cited company’s worksite, as well as a \$300 civil penalty for each day the company does not carry workers’ compensation coverage as required by law.

According to Commissioner Marshall, Division of Wage and Workplace Standards investigators issued Stop Work orders to the companies on the dates and at the locations listed below.

October 27 at the following project site: 40 Mansfield Road, Willimantic

- S & J Stucco

October 28 at the following project site: 561 Long Hill Road, Groton

- West Side Carpenters

November 2 at the following project site: 55 Dawn Harbor Lane, Greenwich

- GRBIC Painting
- Murphy Brothers

November 2 at the following project site: Dawn Harbor Lane, Greenwich

- Balek Construction
- D&S Remodeling

November 2 at the following project site: 221 Round Hill Road, Greenwich

- Arquenta Inc.
- Greenwich Architectural Metals

Media Contact: Nancy Steffens, Communications Director

200 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
Phone: (860) 263-6535 – Fax: (860) 263-6536 – www.ct.gov/dol
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November 3 at the following project site: 137 Milbank Avenue, Greenwich

- Jan Czarnowski
- People's General Construction, LLC

November 3 at the following project site: 34 Lincoln Avenue, Greenwich

- RDR Air LLC
- T & E Copper & Siding
- Tovis Stepan D/B/A SPT Carpentry

November 3 at the following project site: 196 Standwich Road, Greenwich

- VRAPO Construction

November 3 at the following project site: 18 Lexington Avenue, Greenwich

- DiPietro Construction Corp. D/B/A DCC Masonry
- Soos Home Improvement
- TB&B

"Businesses which fail to recognize their workers as employees of their company avoid providing certain protections such as Workers' Compensation, which ensures that those workers are safe in the event they are injured on the job," Marshall notes. "It is an employer's responsibility, under the law, to ensure that their employees have adequate coverage while at work. When an employer does not pay its fair share and a worker gets hurt on the job or is laid off, the state's taxpayers ultimately foot the bill."

In the past nine months, the agency has inspected 116 construction projects and reviewed the records of 499 contractors. Approximately 179 Stop Work orders have been issued during this time, with 58 identified as out-of-state contractors. Companies issued a Stop Work order have 10 days to appeal the decision. Once a cited employer provides proof of appropriate coverage, work at that site is allowed to resume. As a result of these Stop Work orders, \$145,000 has been collected in civil penalties for the misclassification of workers and referrals have been made to the Department of Revenue Services and the Labor Department's Tax Division audit unit for further investigation.

The first Stop Work order was issued by the Connecticut Department of Labor in October 2007. The agency has developed an online site to help educate the public and members of the business community about misclassification laws. Located under the agency's website at www.ct.gov/dol, it also provides contact information for those wishing to report any suspicions of misclassification.

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