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For Immediate Release
May 21, 2009

**UNITED HOIST EQUIPMENT LTD. FINED \$65,000
AFTER WORKER CRITICALLY INJURED**

TORONTO, Ont. – United Hoist Equipment Ltd., a Bolton company that sells, services and rents personnel hoists, was fined \$65,000 on May 14, 2009, for a violation under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), after a worker was critically injured.

On December 7, 2007, a 31.1 metre (102 foot) high hoist on the south exterior side of a seven storey building at 12 Burkebrook Place in Toronto was being dismantled by workers for United Hoist Equipment Ltd. Workers had removed a number of sections of the hoist with a crane and had lowered the hoist cage to the fourth level of the building. A worker on top of the cage to remove tie-ins which secured the hoist to the building removed the last tie-in and the hoist toppled, throwing the worker approximately 9.15 metres (30 feet) to the ground. The worker suffered serious injury, including internal injuries and injuries to the spine, pelvis, head and face.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the base of the hoist had been improperly installed, including inadequate spacing of anchor bolts, unsuitable bolts, and the installation of a replacement part for the foundation frame that did not have the same safety factor as the part being replaced.

United Hoist Equipment Ltd. pleaded guilty under the OHSA of failing to ensure that the replacement part for the foundation frame had at least the same safety factor as the part it was replacing.

The fine was imposed by Justice of the Peace M. Ross Hendriks. In addition to the fine, the court also imposed a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge on the total, as required by the Provincial Offences Act. The surcharge is credited to a special provincial government fund to assist victims of crime.

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For further information:

Media contact:

Rob Ashley
Ministry of Labour
416-326-0925

Court Information at a Glance

Location:	Ontario Court of Justice Old City Hall Courtroom, Courtroom C 33 Queen Street West Toronto, Ontario
Judge:	Justice of the Peace Mary Anne Ross Hendriks
Date of Conviction:	May 14, 2009
Defendants:	United Hoist Equipment Ltd.
Matter:	Occupational Health and Safety
Conviction(s):	R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 213/91, s. 95(1) OHS section 25(1)(c)
Crown Counsel:	Daniel Kleiman



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