



**North Carolina Ellis Cannady Chapter
International Association of Electrical Inspectors**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NC House Bill 39 / SB 91, SB 490 & SB 575, HB 999, Will Cripple Safety Requirements and Expose Workers to Electrocution, Fire and Explosion

CHARLOTTE, NC (March 27, 2007) — The NC Ellis Cannady Chapter of International Association of Electrical Inspectors has just released information about several bills. Recently, NC legislators have sponsored yet more bills that attempt to exempt industrial machinery in the workplace from examination and approval by electrical inspectors. Electrical experts across the US are alarmed by this legislation because of its potential to expose workers to electrocution and fire hazards. Bills HB 39/SB 91 are being presented as something that will help furniture manufacturers, but they will result in unknown potentials for injuries and deaths if passed in their current form, as will the three additional bills.

At a furniture manufacturing facility in Linwood, NC, Danny Cromer suffered second- and third-degree burns to his face, hands, arms and sides of his legs when a fire in a sanding machine spread to the dust collection system. The OSHA investigation revealed that the fire started because the equipment was not approved for use in the Class 2, Division 2 location. This is just one example of **non-approved industrial machinery** in the workplace causing injury and cost to businesses.

Another incident was the **West Pharmaceutical Disaster**, where an explosion occurred killing three people at the scene and resulted in more than 30 injuries. NC Department of Labor determined that the company had exposed employees to dangers by having unapproved equipment and failing to advise workers of the hazards of dust accumulation.

Yet another incident resulted from a **fire in a milling machine at the Oracle Metals Operations** plant in Winston-Salem. The fire spread from the machine and the subsequent explosion blew a forty foot hole in the roof.

Electrical safety experts have come together to provide educational materials on the NC IAEI website. This material can be used for civic groups, presentations for Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Councils, and workplace training for employers. For more information, please go to www.nciaei.org.

The NC Building Code Council (NCBCC) has ruled on the ZF Lemforder appeal. ZF Lemforder Corp., a German automobile parts manufacturer, is investing about \$29 million to build a plant in Newton and to create 200 jobs in the region. The council's decision ignores the larger issue when it states that "industrial machinery" is not electrical equipment even when it is connected to the electrical system; this decision represents electrocution hazards to workers and ignores the factual effect of the equipment on the rest of the electrical system. Read this disturbing decision on the website: www.nciaei.org. Read also the letter to the legislature from Commissioner of Insurance Jim Long, in which he details the larger issue of industrial machinery being acceptable to the authorities having jurisdiction, that have the responsibility of protecting our citizens from fire, electrocution and explosion.

Visit the NC IAEI website at www.nciaei.org to access these documents and keep up-to-date on electrical safety issues. Find out how our electrical inspectors keep the public safe from electrical fire and shock hazards. Call or send letters and e-mails to your representatives to stop this legislation.

About NC IAEI. The North Carolina Ellis Cannady Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting development and uniform understanding of the *National Electrical Code*, enhancing safe use of electricity, and promoting cooperation between inspectors, the industry, and the public.

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