

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The Commissioner of Labor (hereinafter referred to as "Commissioner") and New Image Tree Services (hereinafter referred to as "Employer" or "ER") hereby agree as follows:

The Commissioner amends the Safety Order(s) and Notification(s) of Penalty IOSHA Inspection No. 318119138 issued to the Employer on March 4, 2020 in the following manner:

SAFETY ORDER 01:

Item 1:	<u>Upheld</u>	Penalty	<u>\$3,500</u>	Abatement	<u>6/29/20</u>
Item 2a:	<u>Upheld</u>	Penalty	<u>\$750</u>	Abatement	<u>6/29/20</u>
Item 2b:	<u>Upheld</u>	Penalty	<u>\$0</u>	Abatement	<u>6/29/20</u>
Item 2c:	<u>Upheld</u>	Penalty	<u>\$0</u>	Abatement	<u>6/29/20</u>

SAFETY ORDER 02:

Item 1: Upheld Penalty \$1,000 Abatement Corrected

In consideration of the above amendments, the Employer:

1. Agrees to work with INSafe or a third party consultant to establish a health and safety program which includes work rules, employee training, worksite inspections, and enforcement procedures to assure compliance with OSHA regulations and to control hazards in the workplace. The employer also agrees to provide proof of an INSafe consultation date or third party consultation by 6/29/20 with updates every 30 days on the progress of the program with a targeted completion date of 9/29/20. Proof of abatement will be the submission of the program to Indiana OSHA for review.
2. Safety Order 01 Item 1: Upheld with a 50% penalty reduction offered due to employer size and abatement proposal.
3. Safety Order 01 Items 2a, 2b, and 2c: Upheld in their entirety.
4. Safety Order 02 Item 1: Upheld with an assessed penalty of \$1,000.
5. Payment is due in 12 equal monthly payments per the payment schedule listed in this document below.

The TOTAL AGREED PENALTY is \$ 5,250.00

THE EMPLOYER IS SATISFIED WITH THE AMENDMENTS STATED ABOVE AND ACCORDINGLY WAIVES ITS RIGHT TO FILE A NOTICE OF CONTEST OF THE SAFETY ORDER(S) AND

NOTIFICATION(S) OF PENALTY AS AMENDED AND AGREES TO WITHDRAW ANY PREVIOUSLY FILED NOTICES OF CONTEST IN THIS MATTER.

Upon full execution of this Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") the Employer will post this Agreement for three (3) working days or until abatement is completed, whichever period is longer.

The Safety Order(s) and Notification(s) of Penalty are, and shall be, herein a final and enforceable Order of the Board of Safety Review.


The Commissioner agrees to allow the Employer a total of 12 consecutive months to pay the TOTAL AGREED PENALTY. The Employer shall make one payment of at least Four Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$437.50) until the TOTAL AGREED PENALTY of \$5,250.00 is paid in full. The first payment shall be due with the Employer's execution of this Agreement. Subsequent payments shall be due by the 15th day of each month until said penalty is paid in full. If the Employer fails to make timely payments or fails to pay the full TOTAL AGREED PENALTY as stated herein, the full amount of unpaid penalty that remains shall be immediately due to the Commissioner, the Commissioner may use every legal remedy available to collect such unpaid amount, interest shall begin to accrue on said unpaid amount at the rate of 12% APR compounded daily, and the Commissioner may collect legal fees from the Employer for any collection action that may be necessary.

Except for this Agreement, and IOSHA matters arising out of this Agreement, and any other subsequent IOSHA proceedings between the parties, none of the foregoing agreements, statements, findings, and actions taken by Employer shall be deemed an admission by Employer of the allegations contained within the Safety Order(s) and Notification(s) of Penalty. The agreements, statements, findings and actions taken herein are made in order to compromise and settle this IOSHA matter economically and amicably, and they shall not be used for any other purpose, except as herein stated.

NEW IMAGE TREE SERVICES

RICK RUBLE
COMMISSIONER OF LABOR

By: 

By: 

Title: Owner

Title: Supervisor

Date: 6-5-20

Date: 6/8/20

*CDI denotes that abatement was Completed During Inspection.
Note: EE refers throughout the document to Employee

Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
402 West Washington St - Room W195
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317)232-2691 FAX: (317)233-3790



Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

To:

New Image Tree Services
and its successors
1714 South Main Street
South Bend, IN 46613

Inspection Number: 318119138
CSHO ID: P7064
Optional Report No.: 19-08
Inspection Date(s): 12/23/2019 - 1/30/2020
Issuance Date: 3/4/2020

Inspection Site:

18644 Cleveland Road
South Bend, IN 46637

The violation(s) described in this Safety Order and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.

An inspection of your place of employment has revealed conditions which we believe do not comply with the provisions of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Act (Indiana Code Chapter 22-8-1.1) or the standards or rules adopted thereunder. Accordingly, enclosed please find safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty describing such violation(s) with references to applicable standards, rules, or provisions of the statute and stating the amount of any penalty(ies).

Informal Conference - Please be advised that it may be possible to informally settle any potential dispute without initiating the more elaborate proceedings brought on by a petition for review. Prior to filing a petition for review, you may request an informal conference concerning any of the results of the inspection (safety orders, penalties, abatement dates, etc.) by contacting the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA, preferably by telephone, in a prompt manner. Please be advised that a request for an informal conference cannot extend the fifteen working day period for filing a petition for review. Informal conferences frequently resolve any possible disputes, and therefore you are urged to take advantage of this opportunity. Because of the limited time period and in order to facilitate scheduling, any requests for an informal conference should be made promptly upon your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.

Right to Contest - You are hereby also notified that you are entitled to seek administrative review of the safety order(s), penalty(ies), or both by filing a written petition for review at the above address postmarked within fifteen working days of your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. ("Working days" means Mondays through Fridays, but does not include Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays under a state statute or days on which the Indiana Department of Labor's offices are closed during regular business hours). If you do not file such a petition for review (contest), the safety order(s)

and penalty(ies) shall be deemed final orders of the Board of Safety Review and not subject to review by any court or agency. The issuance of a safety order does not constitute a finding that a violation has occurred unless no petition for review is filed, or if a petition for review (contest) is filed, it must contain a statement of its basis and should reference the above inspection number. Upon receipt of your petition for review, we will affirm, amend or dismiss the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. If we affirm, your petition for review will be granted (unless it was not timely) and the dispute will be certified by the Board of Safety Review for further proceedings. The Board of Safety Review is an independent agency appointed by the governor with authority to conduct hearings and to issue decisions concerning disputed safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. If we amend the safety order(s) or notification(s) of penalty, your petition for review shall be deemed moot. However, you will then be given an opportunity to file a petition for review concerning the amended safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.

Please be advised that an employee or representative of employees may file a petition for review to contest the reasonableness of the time stated in the safety order(s) for the abatement of any violation.

Posting - Upon receipt of any safety order(s) you are required to post such safety order(s), or a copy thereof, unedited, at or near each place an alleged violation referred to in the safety order(s) occurred. However, if your operations are such that it is not practicable to post the safety order(s) at or near each place of alleged violation, such safety order(s) shall be posted, unedited, in a prominent place where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. For example, if you are engaged in activities which are physically dispersed, the safety order(s) may be posted at the location from which the employees operate to carry out their activities. You must take steps to ensure that the safety order is not altered, defaced, or covered by other material. Posting shall be until the violation is abated, or for three working days, whichever is longer.

Penalties - Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. Abatement does not constitute payment of penalties.

Abatement - The conditions cited in the safety order(s) must be corrected (abated) on or before the date shown for each item on the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty and proof of abatement must be sent to the email address: AbatementGI@dol.in.gov unless:

(1) You file a petition for review concerning the violation, in which case the full abatement period shall commence from the issuance of a final decision by the Board of Safety Review or the courts which requires compliance with the safety order; or

(2) The abatement period is extended by the granting of a petition for modification of abatement date.

PMAs - The petition for modification of abatement date is a manner in which you may seek additional time to correct (abate) a violation without having to file a petition for review concerning the safety order, or after the expiration of the time period to file such a petition for review when it becomes apparent that you need extra time to abate the violation. A petition for modification of abatement date shall be in writing and shall be sent to the email address: AbatementGI@dol.in.gov shall include the following information:

(1) All steps you have taken, and the dates of such actions, in an effort to achieve compliance during the prescribed abatement period.

(2) The specific additional abatement time necessary in order to achieve compliance.

(3) The reasons such additional time is necessary, including the unavailability of professional or technical personnel or of materials and equipment, or because necessary construction or alteration of facilities cannot be completed by the original abatement date.

(4) All available interim steps being taken to safeguard employees against the cited hazard during the abatement period.

(5) A certification that a copy of the petition has been posted, and if appropriate, served on the authorized representative of affected employees, and a certification of the date upon which such posting and service was made.

A petition for modification of abatement date shall be filed with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA no later than the close of the next working day following the date on which abatement was originally required sending the Petition to AbatementGI@dol.in.gov. A later-filed petition shall be accompanied by the employer's statement of exceptional circumstances explaining the delay. A copy of such petition shall be posted in a conspicuous place where all affected employees will have notice thereof or near such location where the violation occurred. The petition shall remain posted until the time period for the filing of a petition for review of the Commissioner's granting or denying the petition expires. Where affected employees are represented by an authorized representative, said representative shall be served a copy of such petition.

Notification of Corrective Action - Correction of the alleged violations which have an abatement period of thirty (30) days or less should be reported in writing to us promptly upon correction and sent to the email address AbatementGI@dol.in.gov. A "Letter of Abatement" form and an "Abatement Photographs" worksheet are enclosed for your assistance in providing adequate documentation of abatement. Reports of corrections should show specific corrective action on each alleged violation and the date of such action. On alleged violations with abatement periods of more than thirty (30) days, a written progress report should be submitted via email at AbatementGI@dol.in.gov, detailing what has been done, what remains to be done, and the time needed to fully abate each such violation. When the alleged violation is fully abated, we should be so advised. Timely correction of an alleged violation does not affect the initial proposed penalty..

Followup Inspections - Please be advised that a followup inspection may be made for the purpose of ascertaining that you have posted the safety order(s) and corrected the alleged violations. Failure to correct an alleged violation may result in additional penalties for each day that the violation has not been corrected.

Employer Discrimination Unlawful - The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 30 days after the discrimination occurred with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above.

Notice to Employees - The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must be mailed to the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above within fifteen (15) working days (excluding weekends and State holidays) or receipt by the employer of this safety order and penalty.

If you wish additional information, you may direct such requests to us at the address or telephone number stated above.

Indiana Department of Labor

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE

An informal conference has been scheduled with IOSHA to discuss the safety order(s) issued on 3/4/2020. The conference will be held at the IOSHA office located at 402 West Washington Street, Room W195, Indianapolis, IN 46204 on _____ at _____. Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 318119138
Inspection Date(s): 12/23/2019 - 1/30/2020
Issuance Date: 3/4/2020
CSHO ID: P7064
Optional Report No.: 19-08

Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: New Image Tree Services
Inspection Site: 18644 Cleveland Road, South Bend, IN 46637

Safety Order 01 Item 001 Type of Violation: **Serious**

IC 22-8-1.1 Section 2: The employer did not establish and maintain conditions of work which were reasonably safe and healthful for employees, and free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that employees were exposed to struck by injuries:

Facility wide - Employees were exposed to struck by hazards when training was not adequate to understand the hazards in tree removal.

Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable method to correct this hazard is to follow the recommendations listed in the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) titled American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations - Safety Requirements (ANSI Z133.1-2006) including:

1. Work plans for removal operations shall be communicated to all workers in a job briefing before commencing work (8.5.2).
2. Workers not directly involved in the removal operation shall be clear of the work area, where practicable, beyond the length of the tree, unless a team of workers is necessary to remove a particular tree (8.5.3).
3. A planned escape route for all workers shall be prepared before cutting any standing tree or trunk. The preferred escape route is 45 degrees on either side of a line drawn opposite the intended direction of the fall. Obstructions shall be cleared along the escape path. The chain-saw operator shall use this path for egress once the cut has been completed (8.5.4).

4. Before making the back cut, there shall be a command such as "stand clear" from the arborist operating the chain saw and a response such as "all clear" from the workers supporting the removal operation. Pre-arranged, two-way hand signals may also be used. All workers in the vicinity shall be out of range when the tree or trunk falls.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:	4/6/2020
Proposed Penalty:	\$7,000.00

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: New Image Tree Services
Inspection Site: 18644 Cleveland Road, South Bend, IN 46637

The alleged violations below have been grouped because they involve similar or related hazards that may increase the potential for injury or illness.

Safety Order 01 Item 002a Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1): The employer did not develop, implement, and/or maintain at the workplace a written hazard communication program which describes how the criteria specified in 29 CFR 1910.1200(f), (g), and (h) will be met:

Facility wide - Employees were using chemicals such as, but not limited to, 2-cycle oil, bar oil, diesel, and gasoline when performing tree removal/trimming services. A hazard communication program was not developed or implemented.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated: **4/6/2020**
Proposed Penalty: **\$750.00**

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 318119138
Inspection Date(s): 12/23/2019 - 1/30/2020
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CSHO ID: P7064
Optional Report No.: 19-08

Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: New Image Tree Services
Inspection Site: 18644 Cleveland Road, South Bend, IN 46637

Safety Order 01 Item 002b Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(8): The employer did not maintain in the workplace copies of the required safety data sheets for each hazardous chemical, and did not ensure that they were readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they were in their work area(s)

Facility wide - Employees are using chemicals such as, but not limited to, 2-cycle oil, bar oil, and gasoline when performing tree removal/trimming services. Safety data sheets were not available for the chemicals used by employees.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated: **4/6/2020**
Proposed Penalty: **\$0.00**

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 318119138
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Issuance Date: 3/4/2020
CSHO ID: P7064
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Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: New Image Tree Services
Inspection Site: 18644 Cleveland Road, South Bend, IN 46637

Safety Order 01 Item 002c Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1): Employees were not provided effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard that the employees had not been previously trained about was introduced into their work area:

Facility wide - Employees were using chemicals such as, but not limited to, 2-cycle oil, bar oil, diesel, and gasoline when performing tree removal/trimming services. A hazard communication training was not provided.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated: **4/6/2020**
Proposed Penalty: **\$0.00**

Indiana Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Inspection Number: 318119138
Inspection Date(s): 12/23/2019 - 1/30/2020
Issuance Date: 3/4/2020
CSHO ID: P7064
Optional Report No.: 19-08

Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: New Image Tree Services
Inspection Site: 18644 Cleveland Road, South Bend, IN 46637

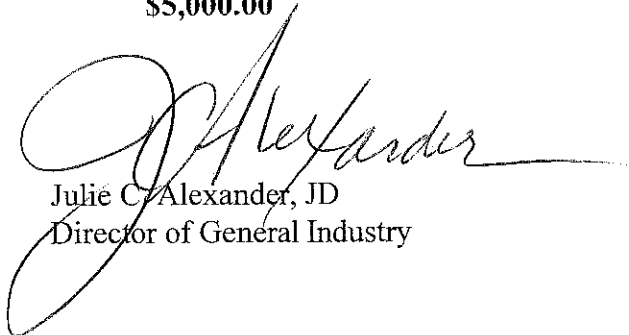
Safety Order 02 Item 001 Type of Violation: **NonSerious**

29 CFR 1904.39(a)(1): Within eight (8) hours after the death of any employee as a result of a work-related incident, you must report the fatality to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor:

Facility wide - On or about 12/22/19 an employee was fataly injured. Fatality was not reported to IOSHA until 12/23/19.

Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection
\$5,000.00



Julie C. Alexander, JD
Director of General Industry

Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
402 West Washington St - Room W195
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317)232-2691 FAX: (317)233-3790



INVOICE/DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

Company Name: New Image Tree Services
and its successors
Inspection Site: 18644 Cleveland Road, South Bend, IN 46637
Issuance Date: 3/4/2020

Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number: 318119138

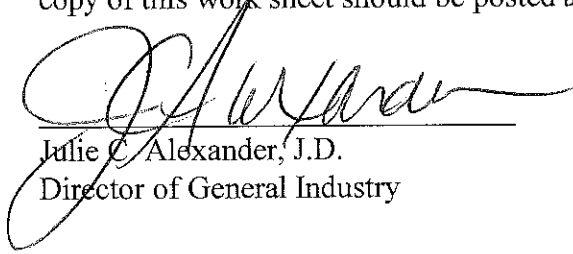
Safety Order 1, Serious	= \$7,750.00
Safety Order 2, NonSerious	= \$5,000.00
TOTAL PENALTIES	= \$12,750.00

Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. Make your check or money order payable to: "Indiana DOL/IOSHA". Please indicate IOSHA's Inspection Number (indicated above) on the remittance. You may also make a payment online at <https://payingov.com/dol/>. Your account number is your inspection number.

IOSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions or endorsements put on any check or money order for less than full amount due, and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

Corrective action, taken by you for each alleged violation should be submitted to this office on or about the abatement dates indicated on the Safety Order and Notification of Penalty.

A work sheet has been provided to assist in providing the required abatement information. A completed copy of this work sheet should be posted at the worksite with the safety order(s).


Julie C. Alexander, J.D.
Director of General Industry

Date

3/4/2020