



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., GOVERNOR
Lori A. Torres, Commissioner

402 West Washington Street, Room W195
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2751

Phone: (317) 232-2655
Fax: (317) 233-3790

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stephanie McFarland, APR
317.234.3793

FATAL INJURY AT UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME RESULTS IN KNOWING SAFETY VIOLATION

INDIANAPOLIS (March 15, 2011) – The Indiana Department of Labor announced today it is citing the University of Notre Dame with the most serious safety violation allowable under Indiana law for the fatal-injury death of student employee Declan Sullivan.

Sullivan, 20 years old at the time of his death, was killed while he was videotaping a Notre Dame football practice from a scissor lift that was toppled in high winds on Oct. 27, 2010.

“We’ve issued a knowing citation, which indicates the most serious safety violation,” said Department of Labor Commissioner Lori Torres during a morning news briefing at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. “The evidence overwhelmingly demonstrated that the university made a decision to utilize its scissor lifts in known adverse weather conditions.”

The agency also cited Notre Dame with five other serious safety violations, including failure to properly train the student employees in how to operate a scissor lift. In all, fines amounting to \$77,500 were levied against the university.

Torres said her agency also will launch a statewide education and outreach initiative directed toward universities, colleges and high schools. “Scissor and other lifts are used by many athletic and band programs nationwide to videotape practices and broadcast events. We want to ensure that they are only being used by trained operators in safe conditions.”

Today, the Indiana Department of Labor issued a letter to a number of associations around the state to urge high schools, colleges and universities to review their use of scissor lifts in athletic and band events.

Notre Dame was informed of the investigation findings on Tuesday morning prior to the news briefing. The university will have 15 business days, by Indiana law, to pay the fines and correct the violations cited in the investigation report, or to contest them to the Indiana Board of Safety Review.

A copy of the safety order is available on the Indiana Department of Labor’s website at:
www.in.gov/dol/2367.htm

###