



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MILTON

# Contractor fined for safety violations

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE STAFF MARCH 16, 2014

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An excavation and utilities contractor agreed to pay \$91,000 to settle allegations of not properly securing an excavation site in Milton, the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration said.

The federal agency said it began investigating Wakefield-based Joseph P. Cardillo & Son Inc. in August after receiving an anonymous complaint related to a construction site at Rustlewood Road and Central Avenue in Milton. Workers there were allegedly installing water mains in a 6-foot, 8-inch deep trench without cave-in protection or a ladder to climb out of the trench, authorities said.

“These workers could have been crushed and buried in seconds beneath tons of soil and debris, without any

escape options,” said a statement from Brenda Gordon, OSHA’s director for Boston and southeastern Massachusetts. The agency called the violations “willful and serious.”

Officials said the contractor was cited in 2010 for the same type of violations at a New Hampshire site and has been in the agency’s “Severe Violator Enforcement Program” since 2011.

In an interview, company owner Mark Cardillo said the employees working on the project in Milton were provided with the proper safety equipment, but did not use it. The company suspended the project’s superintendent and issued written notices to the five employees at the site.

Cardillo said he considered contesting the OSHA’s claims in court and felt he had a “good chance” of winning, but decided to settle after the agency agreed to reduce the proposed fine from \$144,000.

“We’ve been in business for 92 years and we’ve never had any major injuries on any of our jobs,” he said. “We provide our employees with significant and proper amounts of training and supply all the proper safety equipment.

“Sometimes employees don’t use the equipment, but it’s still the company that gets fined,” Cardillo added. “OSHA takes it too far. This was just a hiccup. We’re humans. We make mistakes. It happens.”

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