



ERIK NASARENKO
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NEWS RELEASE



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**Simi Valley Business Owner Sentenced for Failing
to Have Workers' Compensation Insurance**

VENTURA, Calif. - The Ventura County District Attorney's Office announced today that Mauricio Torres (03/31/82), of Simi Valley, pled guilty and was sentenced on December 15, 2023, for failing to have workers' compensation insurance, a misdemeanor. Torres was sentenced to one year of probation and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. He also previously paid \$9,868 in restitution to State Fund, a worker's compensation insurance company.

Torres is the owner of Vero's Tree Service in Simi Valley, a tree trimming company. An investigation by the California Department of Insurance in conjunction with the State Compensation Insurance Fund found that employees of Vero's Tree Service were not legally insured by Torres.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Anne Spillner, a member of the Ventura County Worker's Compensation Insurance Fraud Unit, prosecuted the case.

"Workers' Compensation Insurance exists to protect the health and recovery of vulnerable injured workers," Spillner said. "Employers who choose to underinsure their workers endanger the safe recovery of their employees."

Workers' compensation insurance fraud is a major cost driver for the insurance industry, and it places employers who abide by the rules at a significant competitive disadvantage. It also exploits employees who, while working for an under-insured employer, sustain an injury. These employees often do not receive proper medical care for job-related injuries due to this fraud.

To learn more about Worker's Compensation Insurance fraud [CLICK HERE](#).

Case: 2020001884

Defendant Information:

Mauricio Torres (DOB 03/31/82)
Simi Valley

Charges Pled Guilty to:

- LC 3700.5 – Failure to secure payment of compensation