

# Charges seem likely

## Raised-up house hit other home

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Sun Media

Charges appear imminent after a house raised on beams fell over and crashed into another home last week, says a city official.

Work on the home at 171 Hartford Ave. did not have the required building permit, said Garry Solkoski, a housing and buildings administrator for the city.

Solkoski said the pending charges relate to "failure to obtain necessary permits" and for "proceeding with work without a permit."

If found guilty, the maximum fine for an individual is \$5,000, or six months in prison.

"This is a textbook case of how not to go about doing it," said Solkoski.

Last Friday, it appeared a

support beam propping up the home on Hartford dropped when the earth gave way, tipping the house over, slamming it into a neighbouring home. No one was injured but the fallen home is slated for demolition. The other house received a broken window and some cracked drywall.

The city may also look at laying similar charges against the contractor working on the home at the time, said Solkoski, adding the maximum penalty for a corporation is \$50,000.

The cost of a permit is based on the type of work planned. In the case of the home on Hartford, Solkoski estimates a permit may have cost a little more than \$200. An engineer's report is also needed, outlining proposed work. The report can cost a few hundred dollars.

Along with making sure to get the necessary permits, home-



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Pending charges relate to 'failure to obtain necessary permits' in case of the raised-up house on Hartford Avenue that fell over.

owners should also take other steps to protect themselves as home insurance policies differ from one to the next.

"Prior to doing the renovation, they should meet with their (insurance) broker just to make sure they're covered as best as possible in the event of loss and damage," said David Schioler, CEO for Insurance Brokers Association Manitoba.

On average, an application for a building permit can take about one to two weeks to process if all the necessary

information is provided by home owners, said Solkoski.

The Hartford Avenue accident might have been avoided if the proper process and permits were obtained to ensure safety, said Solkoski.

Homeowners can apply for permits themselves or authorize a contractor to obtain one on their behalf.

Information on permits is available on the city's website at [www.winnipeg.ca/PPD/permits.stm](http://www.winnipeg.ca/PPD/permits.stm).

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