



JURY VERDICT

Construction Site Accident **\$1,200,000**

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Syracuse man awarded more than \$1 million for breaking heels in fall

Syracuse, NY - A Syracuse man has been awarded more than \$1 million to compensate him for breaking both his heels in a fall at a local packaging plant in the city six years ago.

A state Supreme Court jury deliberated a couple of hours last week before deciding to award John Ferris \$1.027 million in damages, according to lawyer Michael Porter.

Porter said Ferris was doing some repair work at Benbow Chemical Packaging Inc. on Hiawatha Boulevard Oct. 17, 2005, when he fell about 10 to 11 feet from the ladder he was on. Ferris landed on his feet, fracturing both heels, the lawyer said.

A judge previously concluded Benbow Chemical Packaging was responsible for having an unsafe work environment, Porter said. The four-day trial before Justice Brian DeJoseph was to address only the issue of damages, the lawyer said.

By Jim O'Hara, The Post-Standard

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Ferris, now 67, has severe arthritis in both heels and suffers severe pain as a result of the injuries, Porter said. That has had an impact on nearly all of his activities, the lawyer added.

The jury awarded Ferris \$210,000 for past pain and suffering and \$650,000 for future pain and suffering, Porter said. The rest of the award covers Ferris' medical expenses, he said.

The jury also awarded Ferris' wife \$12,000 in compensation, Porter said.