



A construction worker is seen repairing damage to the apartment at 2 Secord Avenue on Friday, August 29.

Lawyers file class-action suit in Secord Ave. blast

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Lawyers have filed a \$100 million class-action lawsuit on behalf of residents evacuated from an east-end apartment building after an explosion and fire in a basement electrical vault.

The law firms of Falconer Charney LLP, Hotz Lawyers and Sutts, Strosberg LLP have filed the suit against Toronto

Hydro-Electric System Ltd.

The lawsuit will seek compensation for living expenses, damage to personal property and emotional and physical distress that residents allegedly incurred after the July 20 blast forced them from the apartment at 2 Secord Avenue, lawyer Ted Charney told toronto.ctv.ca.

Between 30 and 40 residents have filled out an online questionnaire related to the suit, and more are expected to do so in the coming days, Charney said.

"Unfortunately, many people who live in apartments don't have insurance. It's not like owning a home," Charney said. "And now they're faced with a situation where they're being asked to move back into apartments which aren't habitable. There's a tremendous amount of smoke and soot damage to these apartments."

The city paid for hotel rooms for most of the 900 residents. However, the suit aims to help residents recoup costs not covered by the city, Charney said.

Residents were allowed to return to the building over the Labour Day weekend.

However, many tenants complained their units were covered in dust and soot and that parking and laundry facilities were still weeks away



Smoke is seen billowing from 2 Secord Avenue the morning of the explosion on Sunday, July 20, 2008. (Richard Grant / MyNews.CTV.ca)

from being repaired..

A representative from the Preston Group, the building's management company, said cleaners would be allowed into the units after residents returned and could give permission.

As well, the company offered residents a two-week rent break.