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Sunrise Propane explosion: \$23-million settlement proposed in class-action suit

The settlement, which is set for an Aug. 7 approval hearing, does not require the admission of wrongdoing or liability in the 2008 fatal accident.



ANGELA DELUCE / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some 6,500 residents in the area bounded by Keele Street, Highway 401, Sheppard Avenue and Dufferin Street are eligible to share in a \$23,345,000 resolution of the class-action lawsuit against nearly two dozen defendants, including Sunrise Propane and the industry's self-regulating body, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority.

By: [Ashante Infantry](#) Business reporter, [Todd Coyne](#) Staff Reporter, Published on Wed Jul 02 2014

On the eve of the sixth anniversary of the early morning Sunrise Propane explosions, a \$23-million settlement has been proposed for the [class-action lawsuit](#).

Lives were shaken when the [Murray Rd. facility went up in flames on Aug. 10, 2008](#). One employee was killed and thousands of people fled their homes.

Now, some 6,500 residents in the area bounded by Keele Street, Highway 401, Sheppard Avenue and Dufferin Street are eligible to share a \$23,345,000 resolution of the lawsuit that named nearly two dozen defendants, including Sunrise Propane Energy Group Inc. and the industry's self-regulating body, the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA).

Jeff Green was among the thousands whose families were [forced from their homes for weeks as the cleanup got underway](#). The initial explosion blew out all of their windows and doors, and infused their carpets with toxic asbestos dust.

"I think we're looking at about \$3,000 total for everything, for all three of us," Green said, "But it was never about the money. We knew there wasn't much."

Instead, he said he would rather have guarantees from the government and the propane industry that such accidents cannot happen again.

The settlement, which is set for an Aug. 7 approval hearing, does not require the admission of wrongdoing or liability.

"Closure is as important as the claim for many of them, because it was a highly emotional experience," said Harvin Pitch, one of the lead lawyers representing the plaintiffs. "Imagine you live across from a utility and it explodes at four o'clock in the morning and you're evacuated. That's really scary."

Under the terms of the agreement, residents could each be granted \$200 for one night of displacement and \$50 per day for every day thereafter. They could also claim for uninsured expenses to fix property damage; lost employment or business income; insurance deductibles; and physical or psychiatric injuries, ranging from \$500 to \$50,000 depending on their severity.

Also eligible for some compensation are the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, insurance companies that paid out to residents and the City of Toronto.