



Truck stop in George West convicted of workers' compensation fraud

Texas Mutual Insurance Company recently reported that George West Truck Stop (GWTS) Inc. in George West, Texas, pleaded guilty to a third-degree felony on workers' compensation fraud-related charges. A Travis County district court ordered the company to pay \$50,000 in restitution to Texas Mutual. The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation, prosecutor in Travis County obtained the conviction.

Texas Mutual insured GWTS Inc., owned by James Russell Williams. On April 6, 2014, an employee's husband received serious injuries while helping change a tire at GWTS Inc. Williams reported the claim as a work-related injury to Texas Mutual. Based on Williams' misrepresentation about the injured person's employment status, Texas Mutual paid benefits on the claim.

Texas Mutual later discovered the misrepresentation and referred the case to the Travis County District Attorney's Office for consideration. Business owners are motivated to report false workers' compensation claims because the insurance carrier will pay the high medical expenses. In addition, a workers' compensation policy provides employer liability protection in the event an employer is sued for gross negligence. Filing fraudulent claims can lead to higher premiums for all Texas employers.

About Texas Mutual Insurance Company

Austin-based Texas Mutual Insurance Company, a policyholder-owned company, is the state's leading provider of workers' compensation insurance. Texas Mutual provides coverage to 43 percent of the market, representing over 70,000 companies, many of which are small businesses. Since 1991, the company has provided a stable, competitively priced source of workers' comp insurance for Texas employers. Helping employers prevent workplace accidents is an important part of Texas Mutual's mission.