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Work Week

Workplace Accidents Can Mean Criminal Charges for Executives

Prosecutors blame corporate managers for poor workplace safety. In Boston, Thomas E. Bowley, chief executive of Tewksbury Industries, Inc., is indicted on manslaughter charges after two company workers were killed in separate accidents. Mr. Bowley allegedly failed to remedy a series of safety hazards at the company's main plant. If convicted, he could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$1,000 fine. Mr. Bowley's attorney declined to comment.

The Practice of charging executives is still rare, but **Illinois has even convicted managers of murder**. "That's usually impossible to prove, since it involves intent to kill," says Theodore St. Antoine, a University of Michigan labor-law professor.

A judge sentenced an Ionia, Mich., company, American Bumper & Manufacturing Co., to five years of probation and a mandatory "moment of silence" for the death of one worker.