

**Hearing Loss Update as of
July 20, 2004**

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Depositions of Chicago Fire Fighters in the litigation against Federal Signal were supposed to have begun on July 14, 2004. They have been temporarily postponed due to a disagreement as to costs (Federal Signal is trying to saddle the Plaintiffs with the bulk of the costs of reproducing documents that they were ordered to produce by the Court). A Motion has been filed with the Circuit Court in Chicago to straighten the matter out.

Settlement discussions have gone slowly, although, they have progressed in increments. There is a problem with respect to Federal Signal paying money out of their own funds and/or whether or not that will be covered by their insurance. Apparently, the Board of Federal Signal will be meeting on Thursday, July 22, 2004 and will be dealing with both the settlement offers and demands on the table as well as Federal Signal's internal insurance issues.

If we are not able to arrive at a settlement, then the cases will be set for trial (probably within the next year), with the Chicago Fire Fighters' cases going before a Chicago Jury first.

We hope that everyone is having a safe summer. Hopefully, this complicated summary will bring you up to date. If any of you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.