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—In The News—

In Circuit Court

A Chicago Heights ironworker who sustained severe electrical burns over 60 percent of his body after the gatepost he was moving hit an overhead power line has reached a \$3.5 million settlement with a suburban packing firm.

Luis Ibarra Sr. was an ironworker for Midwest Fence Corp. The company had been hired by Pactiv Corp. to install a security gate at its Wheeling facility. While Ibarra and the two other ironworkers were rotating the gate post, it hit an electric line 21 feet above. Ibarra sustained second- and third- degree burns.

Ibarra claimed that Pactiv failed to make the work site safe by not shutting off the electricity. Pactiv brought a third-party action against Midwest Fence, contending that the contractor was responsible for the accident, according to Ibarra's lawyer, **Eugene K. Hollander**.

James Dashiell, Midwest Fence's lawyer, said the claim against his client rested on the strength of Ibarra's claim against Pactiv, adding that Midwest Fencing believed Ibarra was primarily responsible for his injuries.

The case had been set to go to trial Oct. 23, but settled last last week.

Pactiv was represented by **Robert S. Grabermann** and **William G. Sullivan** of Martain, Brown & Sullivan. Midwest Fence was represented by **James R. Dashiell** of Riordan, Donnelly, Lipinski & Mckee Ltd. *Luis and Maria Ibarra v. Pactiv Corp.*, No. 01 L 11692.