

Clippings are brief summaries of recent news articles in the consumer media. These stories offer a peek at how garage door companies and products are being reported to the public.

Dog crushed by garage door

Source: Andrea VanValkenburg and Suzanne Moore, "Dog lost to garage-door tragedy," *Press-Republican (Plattsburgh, N.Y.)*, Oct. 14, 2018.

Note: If you are installing photo-eyes higher than 6" from the garage floor, please read this story.

On Saturday, Sept. 22, Heather Gadway's garage floor had been freshly washed, and she left the garage door open about 8" to let the floor dry. Out in the driveway, she and her 7-year-old son hopped in the car to get some groceries. Needing to run back in the garage, she hit the remote to open the door.

At that same moment, their 11-year-old dog had paused under the door. The door closed on the dog, crushing its skull and killing it. The horrific tragedy drove Heather to investigate why this had happened.

She found that the photo-eyes were installed 15" from the floor. She also found, from the DASMA website and her manufacturer's instruction manual, that the sensors are supposed to be installed no higher than 6".

She contended that Champlain Door Systems in Fairfax, Vt., who had installed the system in 2016, had mounted the photo-eyes at 15". Champlain Door denied that. The Gadways have since had the sensors moved to the proper height and "want others to be aware of the potential dangers ... and regulations regarding their installation and maintenance."

Editor's note: Heather is right about the six-inch rule. Our magazine has frequently published articles about it, yet we continue to hear of dealers who mount it higher, often to prevent the door from contacting the vehicle's bumper. But there's no excuse: Install them no higher than 6"!



Homeowner charged with terrorizing garage door tech

Source: Blair Emerson, "Bismarck veteran accused of terrorizing garage door company employee," *Bismarck Tribune (Bismarck, N.D.)*, Oct. 16, 2018.

A garage door technician "mistakenly pulled down the wrong driveway" in a rural area and found himself "fearing for his life," after a Bismarck, N.D., man came after him with a gun. After the July 3 incident, 70-year-old Raymond Geffre was charged with felony terrorizing.

53-year-old Edward Weber of Midwest Doors said he drove down the wrong driveway and attempted to turn around. As he was leaving, Weber said Geffre pulled up in a vehicle beside him and got out, holding a cellphone in one hand and a black semi-automatic handgun in the other.

Geffre's attorney said, "He's a disabled Vietnam vet, and he got charged with terrorizing with a two-year mandatory minimum for allegedly pointing his own gun at a trespasser on his own property." A trial was set for Dec. 20. *Editor's note: Yipes! I guess you need to make sure your scheduler gets the correct address and that your GPS is ultra-accurate.*

OSHA cites Napoleon Spring after amputation

Source: "Department of labor cites Archbold manufacturer after employee amputation," *Sentinel-Tribune (Bowling Green, Ohio)*, Oct. 8, 2018.

Napoleon Spring Works of Archbold, Ohio, was cited by OSHA for "willful and serious safety violations" after a temporary employee's arm was amputated in a factory accident. The Archbold garage door hardware manufacturer faces proposed penalties totaling \$284,540.

OSHA investigators said the company failed to implement lock-out/tag-out procedures to prevent equipment from moving unintentionally during production. The citation also said that Napoleon failed to train employees on lock-out/tag-out practices and failed to install adequate machine guarding.

OSHA said that the company remains in OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program. In 2017, OSHA issued multiple citations to Napoleon Spring Works after there were three amputations in just over two months. In 2013, Napoleon was cited for \$147,600 in proposed penalties for "exposing workers to amputation hazards."

continued on page 74

Three face fraud charges after garage door repair

Source: David Slone, "Silver Lake man, 2 others face home improvement fraud charges," Times-Union (Warsaw, Ind.), Sept. 14, 2018.

Three men face fraud charges after overcharging an elderly woman for work performed on her garage door and her home. Charges include home improvement fraud (a level 5 felony) and exploitation of an endangered adult (a level 6 felony).

The work was performed over several months in 2017 and included replacing a garage door, a garage door opener, rail, motor, sensors, track, new wiring, and remotes. She was charged \$4,600 for the opener and thousands more for the other garage door work.

An investigation revealed that the sensors were installed incorrectly, the garage door and rail were never actually replaced, and that the opener should have cost around \$400.

Editor's note: These guys were not garage door dealers. But as we all know, there are many disreputable garage door service companies that grossly overcharge customers (including the elderly) and perform unnecessary repairs. We think it's only a matter of time before such companies are arrested for "home improvement fraud" and "exploitation of an endangered adult."

Dream garages are the "new status symbol"

Source: Jura Koncius, "Dream garages: Eat, party and even sleep next to your wheels," Washington Post, Oct. 16, 2018.

This lengthy feature story with several stunning photos appeared in the renowned Washington Post.

"Since the dawn of the 21st century, the wow factor of a house has centered on the trophy kitchen," but now, "a new status symbol is zooming onto the landscape: the luxury garage."

The article describes garages as "the latest space to transform from utilitarian to cool." According to stats from NAHB and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, homeowners spent \$3.2 billion adding garages in 2015.

The story tracks how the rich and famous have jumped on the bandwagon with lavish garages as well as "private luxury-garage communities," such as the M1 Concourse in Pontiac, Mich. These elaborate spaces are used for expensive cars as well as expanded living spaces that may include a cocktail lounge, cigar room, home theatre, or an indoor basketball court.

Editor's note: If a luxury garage is the new status symbol, so is a luxury garage door. The point: Don't always quote the lowest-price door! Even middle-class homeowners will appreciate—and can often afford—an upscale garage door that enhances their home.

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