

\$12,762,000

Chemical Explosion  
**NEGLIGENT DESIGN**

**FACTS:** Plaintiff, Kendall Mann, a sales manager, age 38, sustained burn injury during a fire on premises operated by his employer, Defendant Rhino Linings of Santa Fe Springs (Rhino SFS). Rhino SFS is a facility which sprays pick-up truck beds with a protective, plastic bed liner. Rhino SFS acted as a dealer for the Defendant Rhino Linings USA (Rhino USA). Rhino USA supplies its dealers nationwide with all equipment and chemicals used in the process. Before the fire, as part of its permit to operate the business, Rhino SFS was ordered to install a spray booth by the City of Santa Fe Springs Fire Department. Rhino SFS, with the help of Rhino USA, ignored the fire department orders and conducted the business without a permit. The Rhino SFS applicators had just finished spraying a truck. A fire started at an exhaust fan located in the spray area. Plaintiff Kendall Mann jumped in the newly sprayed truck and drove it outside the building. Plaintiff then attempted to re-enter the building believing his two co-employees were trapped inside. As he re-entered the building, he sustained burn injuries. Rhino Linings SFS learned at the time of the fire it had no workers' compensation coverage.

**CONTENTIONS:** Plaintiff contended that Rhino USA negligently trained, managed and authorized their dealership, the Defendant Rhino Linings of Santa Fe Springs, whose business was conducted without appropriate fire safety systems and the required permit for a spray booth.

**INJURIES:** Plaintiff sustained burn injuries to his hands, arms, head, neck and back, approximately 20 percent of his total body surface area. The plaintiff has undergone several graft procedures.

**MANN v. RHINO LININGS, USA. et al.**

**CASE NUMBER:** VC036135

**LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT**