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State: New York

Thruway Worker Accused of Double-Dipping as Auto Mechanic: EAST [08/18/09]

A North Bay, N.Y., worker from the New York State Thruway Authority has been charged with workers' compensation fraud based on allegations that he's been working as an auto mechanic while collecting benefits.

The New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF) said Monday Ronald Snyder, 40, has been charged with multiple counts of workers' compensation fraud based on wage-replacement benefits he collected following two accidents in 2003 and 2004.

NYSIF said it has been paying Snyder \$350 per week, the combined rate for the two accidents, based on an 89% degree of disability established by the New York State Worker's Compensation Board.

Investigators said Snyder attested to a no-work status in 17 written statements submitted to the fund. Surveillance identified him as working at E J Automotive and Used Cars in Durhamville, N.Y.

Snyder surrendered to the New York State Police on Aug 13 and was charged with fraudulent practices. The fund said he will face additional charges when he is arraigned Aug. 25 in Verona Town Court.

He has received \$24,750 in benefits to which he was not entitled since Feb. 20, 2008. NYSIF estimated potential savings in the case at \$246,510.79.

Source: NYSIF

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