

Another quake lawsuit

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SANTA CRUZ — Ford's Department Store has filed suit against Plaza Books seeking retribution for earthquake damage caused by a brick wall which fell upon and collapsed the department store roof.

One woman died and another was seriously injured by falling debris inside Fords.

The suit, filed this week in Santa Cruz Superior Court, claims that the owners of Plaza Books and the bookshop building knew, or should have known, that the building was seismically unsafe. It claims the building owners and any leasees had a duty to make the structure safe and to warn of the danger.

The suit seeks unspecified damages, including the building costs and money to pay for increased workman's compensation insurance.

The suit is brought on behalf of Charles Ford Co. and not on the behalf of those injured in the store.

Katherine Trieman, a 75-year-old Scotts Valley woman, died when the roof collapsed upon her while she was shopping.

Edith Dominguez, a longtime Ford's employee, was also seriously injured by falling debris.

Earlier this year, the heirs of Shawn McCormick, one of two victims killed inside the Santa Cruz Coffee Roasting Company during the quake, had filed suit against Ron Lau, the owner of Bookshop Santa Cruz building, and others. That suit also claims that the building owners had prior knowledge that their buildings were seismically unsafe and failed to correct the problems.