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Electrician sues county over exposure to PCB

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An electrician at Santa Rita Rehabilitation Center near Pleasanton has filed suit against Alameda County and Sheriff Glenn Dyer, contending he was exposed to cancer-causing PCBs while servicing a defective electrical transformer on the jail grounds.

Larry D. Walling, in the lawsuit filed Friday in Alameda County Superior Court, asks for unspecified damages for medical expenses.

He said that he was required to service a transformer that was leaking toxic, polychlorinated biphenyls last February. The county should have known the transformer was defective, he said in the suit.

Walling, who still works for the county, contends his employers are required by the state labor code to provide him a safe workplace and to notify him of any threats to his health.

The county had not yet been served with the suit and staff members said they could not comment on it.

Also named as defendants in the suit are the General Electric and Monsanto companies.