Workplace Cleanliness – Landscaping Fatality File

Fatal Infection Due to Poor Workplace Cleanliness in Landscaping

On October 22, 2023, a fatal incident occurred at a landscaping equipment storage facility in Calgary, Alberta, resulting in the death of a 46-year-old worker, James Roberts. Roberts had been tasked with maintaining the facility’s equipment and workspace, which had accumulated a significant amount of organic debris, mold, and standing water due to inadequate cleaning practices.

Over time, Roberts developed a severe respiratory infection caused by prolonged exposure to mold spores and bacteria present in unsanitary conditions. Despite seeking medical attention, his condition worsened, leading to fatal complications. The investigation revealed that the facility had no established cleaning protocols, and employees were not provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for working in contaminated environments.

The investigation further found that the company had ignored previous complaints about the unsanitary conditions, leading to an environment where harmful pathogens could thrive. The lack of proper ventilation and failure to regularly clean and disinfect the facility were identified as contributing factors to the hazardous conditions.