Cold, Flu and Transmissible Illness – Landscaping Fatality File



Fatal Illness Outbreak Among Landscaping Crew

On January 25, 2023, a fatal outbreak of flu occurred among a landscaping crew working on a large commercial project in Toronto, Ontario. The incident resulted in the death of a 52-year-old worker, Richard Thompson, who succumbed to complications from influenza after the virus rapidly spread through the crew.

The investigation revealed that the crew was working under harsh winter conditions, which exacerbated the spread of the virus. The company had not implemented adequate health protocols to manage the risk of transmissible illnesses, such as providing flu vaccinations or enforcing sick leave policies. Additionally, there were no proper handwashing stations or sanitation measures in place, leading to widespread illness among the workers.

Following this tragic incident, the landscaping company has enforced strict health and safety protocols, including mandatory flu vaccinations for all employees, paid sick leave to encourage workers to stay home when ill, and the installation of hand sanitizing stations at all job sites. The company has also introduced regular health screenings during flu season to prevent similar outbreaks.