Worker’s Injury & Subsequent Death from Infection Result in $150,000 Fine



A city worker was part of a crew sent to fix a sewer backup. The crew tried to use a pressure hose to loosen a blockage in the pipe. The hose and nozzle unexpectedly returned, deflected off a crew member and struck the worker, who received multiple puncture wounds and blood loss. He was taken to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with an infection stemming from the incident. He was hospitalized in the intensive care unit, given antibiotics and put on a ventilator. He also underwent surgery twice for wound closure in an attempt to remove infected and dead tissues. But he died from his injuries and the infection. The city pleaded guilty to a safety offence and was fined $150,000 [*City of Welland*, Govt. News Release, Dec. 16, 2015].