



DEATH OF AN EDMONTON WOMAN HIGHLIGHTS THE RISK OF SLIP-AND-FALL ACCIDENTS

An Edmonton woman has died after falling on ice that was not properly cleared from a sidewalk, according to CTV News Edmonton. The incident happened February 1 when, officials say, the victim likely hit her head after falling, although the exact circumstances have yet to be determined. While emergency personnel tried to revive her, she was later declared dead at the hospital.

Danger of Slip-and-Fall Accidents

This case highlights the danger of slip-and-fall cases, especially given the recent weather in Calgary that has seen snow melt only to then quickly refreeze into ice. While most slip-and-fall incidents only lead to minor injuries, as the death of this Edmonton woman shows much more serious accidents can and do occur. Furthermore, given that the woman was only in her 50s, this case also shows that the danger of slip-and-fall accidents is not always limited to senior citizens, as is often believed.

Responsibilities of Property Owners

In Calgary, the responsibility of property owners to clear sidewalks is mandated by Street Bylaw 20M88, section 67, which requires all property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours after a snowfall. With the recent weather in Southern Alberta, it may be tempting for residents and business owners to put off snow and ice removal, especially if more snow is forecast within the next day. However, failure to clear sidewalks can lead to a fine from the City of Calgary and it also creates potential for the property owner to be the subject of a personal injury lawsuit if, in certain circumstances, a person is injured because a pathway has not been properly cleared. As many Calgary residents are aware, ice that has accumulated on sidewalks can be particularly difficult to remove, but this difficulty does not excuse residents from their responsibilities. The City of Calgary provides free salt and sand, which can be picked up from most fire halls.

Remaining Vigilant

Residents should also be aware that simply clearing sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall will only guarantee that they will not face a fine from the City. The property owner can still be held liable for negligence if a person is injured on his property because of snow or ice that has not been cleared, regardless of how long ago the snow stopped falling. Therefore, the best course of action for all property owners is to ensure their property is kept clear of hazards, and a good

starting point is to remove ice and snow at least twice a day: once in the morning and again at night. Doing so will help reduce the likelihood of a member of the public being injured because of the property owner's negligence.

A person who is injured because of a slip-and-fall accident on a person's property that was not properly cleared may have the right to seek a personal injury claim against the responsible property owner. A slip-and-fall accident, as the unfortunate case of this Edmonton woman shows, can lead to serious injuries, and victims should seek the advice of a personal injury lawyer to see what options may be available to them.

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