



# FOR PUBLIC RELEASE: Coroner Judgement of Inquiry and Inquest Inquisition and Recommendations

Department of Justice, Legal Services  
Yukon Coroners Service  
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Yukon Coroners Service: Judgement of Inquiry into the death of: Danny Lutz

Coroner Investigative File No.: 45202014031

Name: Danny Lutz Date of Birth: 1944/04/29 Date of Death: 2014/10/14  
YYYY/MM/DD YYYY/MM/DD

Address: Watson Lake, Yukon  
Street Address Province/Territory Postal Code

Ethnic Origin: First Nation Location of Death: Whitehorse General Hospital

## Cause of Death

Complications of Thermal Injury due to fall into bath tub of hot water.

## Manner of Death

Accidental

## Autopsy Findings

An autopsy was performed on October 23, 2014 at 09:30hrs at Vancouver General Hospital by Dr. S. Boone, Forensic Pathologist.

There were second and third degree burns to the buttocks, back and right elbow which required skin grafting. The burns were 10% of the total body surface. There was acute and organizing diffuse alveolar damage of the lungs and ischemic hypoxic encephalopathy. There were acute left posterior rib fractures. There were old rib fractures and an old head injury.

The pattern of thermal injury was carefully examined and reviewed by several forensic pathologists during the course of the investigation. The consensus opinion was that the pattern of injuries on the buttocks and lower back was consistent with falling backward into a bathtub of hot water.

## Toxicological Findings

Toxicology analysis was limited to samples available at death. These samples could not provide information about toxicology at the time following when the burns occurred. Toxicology analysis revealed hydromorphone .061mg/L (femoral), a therapeutic level of acetaminophen, and a sub-therapeutic level of furosemide.

### Circumstances of Death

Mr. Lutz was consuming alcohol on the evening of September 26, 2014. His caregiver brought Mr. Lutz dinner and left the home for a few hours. Mr. Lutz was lying on the sofa in the living room watching television when he left. The caregiver returned to the home around 22:30hrs. He looked around and Mr. Lutz was not lying on the sofa anymore. His clothing was piled up on the floor in the living room and the bathroom door was slightly ajar. The caregiver went to check on Mr. Lutz and found him in the bathroom. The room was steamy and Mr. Lutz had vomited in the bathtub. The caregiver helped Mr. Lutz by handing him a towel. He noticed that Mr. Lutz's back was red and that he had burned himself. Mr. Lutz was taken to Watson Lake Hospital at 23:30hrs on September 26, 2014. He had second and third degree burns to 10% of his body. Clinical records indicate that Mr. Lutz was intoxicated on admission and required assistance to walk. On September 28, 2014 the physician in Watson Lake consulted with a burn specialist at Vancouver General Hospital. He was treated non-operatively originally, until it was determined that surgery would be required. Mr. Lutz was transferred to Vancouver General Hospital at 19:22hrs on September 30, 2014. He underwent surgery and was repatriated to Whitehorse General Hospital on October 9, 2014. While at WGH, his condition continued to deteriorate and he died on October 14, 2014 from complications related to the burns sustained on September 26, 2014.

### Significant Factors/Conclusions

Mr. Lutz suffered second and third degree burns to 10% of his body when he fell into a bathtub of hot water. He was intoxicated at the time of the injury.

Mr. Lutz died at Whitehorse General Hospital of complications of the burns he sustained when he fell into the bathtub on September 26, 2014.

### Recommendations

No recommendations

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Signature, Chief Coroner

*Whitehorse YT Aug 11/15*

Province/Territory

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