

## Allergic reaction to burger killed father

Saturday, November 01, 2008, 09:30

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A father collapsed and died after suffering an allergic reaction to a takeaway beefburger.

Mark Nicholson, 28, from Leicester Forest East, called 999 from his hotel room begging for help after his throat swelled up and he was unable to breathe.

He collapsed before telling the operator which room he was in, and by the time paramedics tracked him down, he was dead.

The self-employed glazier leaves partner, Emma Wilton, and a young daughter, Ellie.

An inquest heard Mr Nicholson had a long-standing allergy to peanuts, but had never suffered a serious reaction.

On the night of his death, he had been in Brighton to seal a business deal and went out to celebrate with friend, Andy Webster.

The pair finished the night by eating chilli burgers, before returning to the Ramada Jarvis hotel on the seafront.

Just minutes after heading back to his room in the early hours of August 1, Mr Nicholson raised the alarm.

A transcript of the 999 call was read out at the inquest at Brighton County Court.

Mr Nicholson told the operator he needed an EpiPen – a self-administered shot of adrenaline.

The operator asked which room he was in. Unsure, Mr Nicholson went to check the door – but collapsed before he got back to the phone.

Police, hotel workers and paramedics then desperately called phones and knocked on doors in the 123-room hotel to try to find Mr Nicholson.

Eventually, a hotel worker encountered an engaged tone, and the group discovered Mr Nicholson unconscious .

Paramedics were unable to revive him and Mr Nicholson was pronounced dead at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Mr Nicholson's partner, Emma, has left a tribute to him on remembrance website Gone Too Soon.

It reads: "I never thought we would have something so tragic and unexpected to deal with at this time in our lives – it's so wrong.

"Thank you for being such a special person in our lives, taking care and looking after us. You have worked so hard and if only you hadn't been taken I know you would have made your dreams come true. I will give Ellie (daddy's little girl) all I can and give her lots of love, hugs and kisses from you."

Pathologist Dr Anthony Williams told the inquest he believed Mr Nicholson had suffered a reaction to an ingredient in the chilli burger which may have derived from peanuts.

He said Mr Nicholson's history of asthma could have been a contributing factor.

Coroner Veronica Hamilton-Deeley recorded a verdict of misadventure, saying Mr Nicholson's

"sudden and tragic" death was because of "anaphylactic shock due to an allergic reaction to food".

She said: "This is not a man who stupidly disregarded warning signs. He behaved entirely sensibly and appropriately throughout the evening but suffered what was an unheralded reaction."

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# The Argus

## Nut allergy killed father in Brighton hotel

5:20pm Friday 31st October 2008

A young father collapsed and died after suffering an allergic reaction to a takeaway beefburger.

Mark Nicholson, 28, made a 999 call from his Brighton hotel room begging for help after his throat swelled up and he was left struggling to breathe.

But he was unable to tell the operator which room he was in, and by the time paramedics had tracked him down he was dead.

An inquest into his death at Brighton Coroner's Court yesterday heard the self-employed glazier had a long-standing allergy to peanuts but had never suffered a serious reaction.

On the night he died, Mr Nicholson had been in Brighton to seal a business deal and went out to celebrate with friend Andy Webster.

The pair finished the night by eating chilli burgers at Favourite Kebab, in Preston Street, before returning to the Ramada Jarvis hotel on the seafront.

But just minutes after heading back to his room in the early hours of August 1, Mr Nicholson raised the alarm.

A transcript of the 999 call was read out by coroner's officer Jane Ritchie, during which Mr Nicholson told the operator he needed an "epi-pen", a self-administered shot of adrenaline.

The operator then asked which room he was in. Unsure, Mr Nicholson went to check the door – but collapsed before he got back to the phone. Police, hotel workers and paramedics then desperately called phones and knocked on doors in the 123-room hotel to try and find Mr Nicholson.

Eventually a hotel worker found an engaged tone, and the group found Mr Nicholson unconscious in that room.

Paramedics were unable to revive him and Mr Nicholson was pronounced dead at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

The inquest heard from pathologist Dr Anthony Williams, who said he believed Mr Nicholson had suffered a reaction to an ingredient in the chilli burger which may have derived from peanuts. He said Mr Nicholson's history of asthma could have been a contributing factor.

Brighton and Hove Coroner Veronica Hamilton-Deeley, registered the cause of death as "anaphylactic shock due to an allergic reaction to food (known peanut allergy)".

Recording a verdict of misadventure, she described his death as a "sudden and tragic loss".

Miss Hamilton-Deeley added: "This is not a man who stupidly disregarded warning signs. He behaved entirely sensibly and appropriately throughout the evening but suffered what was an unheralded reaction."

Mr Nicholson, from Leicester, leaves his partner Emma Wilton and young daughter Ellie.

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