

First Aid – More than Just Bandages

In some cases, there may be a need for additional first aid equipment. For example, if using walnuts shells for abrasive blasting. Walnuts shells are sometimes used as a safer substitute for silica in abrasive blasting. However, some people have serious or life-threatening reactions to exposure to nuts such as walnuts.

Where there is an identifiable hazard, additional first aid equipment above and beyond the minimum requirement. Processes with nut based products or where there is the potential to be stung by insects such as bees, it would be prudent to include an epipen in the first aid supplies

An Edmonton man died of anaphylactic shock after being exposed to a walnut-based product being used for sandblasting in the same building where he was testing air quality. The inclusion of an epipen (an epinephrine autoinjector) in the first aid kit may have saved his life.

He was inside the Rossdale fire station, which is being renovated, for close to 20 minutes while testing the air quality with a co-worker. He was unaware a product containing walnut shells was being used to sandblast walls in the building. When he started having trouble breathing, He rushed outside. He then collapsed and fell to the ground. Edmonton fire crews responded first, followed by an ambulance. The worker later died in hospital

"There isn't anything specifically in the health and safety code or any of the legislation that particularly mentions walnuts individually, but we do have laws in place in general that require employers to take all reasonable steps to keep workers safe at the job. And also workers are to be informed of any potential danger or potential hazards in the workplace so that they're forewarned and they can take the steps to avoid them."

An Occupational Health and Safety investigation into the fatality death is ongoing. It must be completed within two years of the incident.

Source: **Edmonton worker allergic to walnuts dies after inhaling particles at worksite**

By Travis McEwan, [CBC News](#) Posted: Oct 23, 2017 5:26 PM MT Last Updated: Oct 23, 2017 7:51 PM MT