

# HAZARD ALERT

## RISK MANAGEMENT SECTION



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Date: 1/03/12

Alert No: 22

Source:

Internal

External

Author: FPC

Identified Hazard: Butyric Acid

Risk Rating:

Low

Moderate

High

Significant

Nature of Incident: Injury  Property Damage  Near-hit

Other:

### Description of Incident:

Butyric acid has been used by protestors in the FPC's head office.

### Equipment Involved:

Butyric Acid is physically characterised as a colourless oily liquid, with a very unpleasant smell and acid taste. The substance is rated as a mild to moderate irritant and can be absorbed into the body by inhaling its vapours. The substance is also corrosive to the eyes, skin respiratory and digestive tracts.

### Prevention of Harm

Prevention of harm should focus on avoiding all contact, and avoid inhaling or accidentally consuming the substance (i.e. do not eat, drink or smoke if there is any chance of contact). Exposure may be more serious for individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions (e.g. asthmatics) or allergies. The substance is also flammable, so open flames should not be near the substance.

### Recommendations: Preventing Exposure

All physical contact and inhalation must be avoided.

Clear the building, and contact your immediate Manager, Police 000 and the Pollution Watch Hotline 1300 784782.

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be used during tasks involving potential exposure.