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Butyric Acid

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Butyric Acid - Fact Sheet

- Butyric acid, also known as butanoic acid, is found naturally in small amounts in cheeses and butter. It is an oily, colourless liquid with an unpleasant odour like rancid butter.
- The vapour can be irritating to the eyes, nose and throat. If inhaled in high concentrations it can cause coughing and difficulty breathing.
- The liquid can be irritating and cause mild to moderate burning sensation if spilled directly on the skin.
- Butyric acid is not absorbed into the body to cause toxicity. Effects from butyric acid are a result of the irritant effects on skin, lung membranes or eyes.

Treatment for people exposed to butyric acid:

- If inhaled, get out of the area into fresh air.
- If spilled on skin or clothing, remove clothing and wash exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water. If irritation or pain persists, the person should be seen in a healthcare facility.
- Clothing should be laundered before wearing. No special precautions need to be followed for laundry.
- Anyone experiencing coughing or difficulty breathing, should be evaluated in a health care facility.

For information on toxicity or treatment, please contact:

BC Drug and Poison Information Centre
604-682-5050 or 1-800-567-8911

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We are grateful to all the First Nations who have cared for and nurtured the lands and waters

around us for all time, including the x?m??k??y??m (Musqueam), Sk?wx?wu?7mesh U?xwumixw (Squamish Nation), and s?l?ilw?ta? (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) on whose unceded and ancestral territory our centre is located.

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