

HOW DOES BUTYRALDEHYDE AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

Effects of butyraldehyde on human health and the environment depend on how much butyraldehyde is present and the length and frequency of exposure. Effects also depend on the health of a person or the condition of the environment when exposure occurs.

Exposure to butyraldehyde liquid for short periods of time damages the eyes. Exposure to butyraldehyde liquid irritates the skin. Studies show that exposure to large amounts of butyraldehyde in air causes anesthesia in animals. These effects are not likely to occur at levels of butyraldehyde that are normally found in the environment.

Human health effects associated with breathing or otherwise consuming small amounts of butyraldehyde over long periods of time are not known. Laboratory studies show that repeated exposure to large amounts of butyraldehyde in air can adversely affect the lining of the nose and the lungs of animals. Laboratory studies show that repeated oral exposure to large amounts of butyraldehyde can adversely affect the stomach. Limited evidence shows that butyraldehyde may also cause changes in cells important to the reproductive system of animals. Whether these changes affect the ability of animals to reproduce is not known.

Butyraldehyde has moderate toxicity to aquatic life. By itself it is not likely to cause environmental harm at levels normally found in the environment. Butyraldehyde can contribute to the formation of photochemical smog when it reacts with other volatile substances in air.

WHAT EPA OFFICES OR OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES OR OTHER GROUPS CAN I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON BUTYRALDEHYDE?

EPA OFFICE	LAW	PHONE NUMBER
Pollution Prevention & Toxics	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) (§ 313/ Toxics Release Inventory data)	(202) 260-1531
	Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (§8A, 8D)	(202) 554-1404
Air	Clean Air Act (§111, §112B)	(919) 541-0888

For general information on reducing or eliminating industrial pollutants through technology transfer, education, and public awareness, contact the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse, (202) 260-1023.

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY/DEPARTMENT OR GROUP	PHONE NUMBER
American Industrial Hygiene Association	(703) 849-8888
Consumer Product Safety Commission	(301) 504-0994
Food and Drug Administration	(301) 443-3170

The Support Document for this and other OPPT Chemical Fact Sheets can be found on the Internet at:
<http://www.epa.gov/chemfact>