

# SAFETY ALERT

WHS-ALERT-005-2016

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Area of Concern:** All JCU staff and Students

## Naphthalene

Naphthalene is a carbon-based chemical that is most commonly used to make mothballs and other pest control products.

Naphthalene is the simplest polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and is a white crystalline solid with a characteristic odour that is detectable at concentrations as low as 0.08 ppm by mass.

### How can I be exposed to Naphthalene?

Naphthalene is a volatile compound and will release both particulate and vapour. Naphthalene has potential to enter the body through inhalation of vapour, ingestion and absorption through the skin.

Brief exposure to elevated levels of Naphthalene vapour can result in irritated eyes, headaches, nausea, dizziness, and / or vomiting. Exposure to highly elevated Naphthalene vapour levels can result in haemolytic anaemia (red blood cells are damaged resulting in lower oxygen carrying capacity of blood) and potentially kidney or liver damage.

### How to prevent exposure

Follow the safety advice precautions below:

- Refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for more information prior to using this product;
- Develop a risk assessment and safe operating procedure;
- Use the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment outlined in the SDS;
- Only use this substance in a well ventilated area;
- Only use the required amount of substance for the task. Excess stock could result in exposure to neighboring rooms and other staff.



Further information is available on the Work Health and Safety web pages regarding [Hazardous Chemicals at JCU](#).