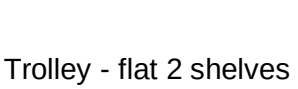
Safety Alert August 2020

Transporting Hazardous or Dangerous Material.

Lessons Learnt

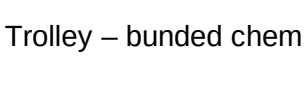
In a recent incident, chemicals were being transported from one of the campus stores to a laboratory on a two-shelf flat trolley as displayed below (Example 1). The trolley's top shelf had a tub secured by a cable tie to the handle, in which liquids were transported on the trolley. In this incident the tub contained two 4 litre glass bottles of Acetonitrile chemical.

Example 1



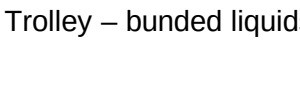
Trolley - flat 2 shelves

Example 2



Trolley – bunded chemical

Example 3



Trolley – bunded liquids

The path from stores to the other building directed users to an external route on campus between buildings, and on some days a wind tunnel exists between buildings. On the day of the incident the wind levels were not excessive, though a gust of wind pushed the tub off the trolley, snapping the cable tie and causing the bottles to fall out of the tub onto the cement floor.

One of the two bottles of acetonitrile smashed onto the ground, spilling the contents, and creating a hazardous situation. Due to the volatile nature of acetonitrile, security was called to attend the scene and keep the public safe. The dangerous substance evaporat d apo-eaD41 and

- Modifications to equipment should be risk assessed to ensure they do not add additional hazards because of the modification.

What are we doing differently now?

- A more appropriate trolley is being used to transport chemicals from stores.
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