

**PRINCIPALS  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS  
INSTITUTE DIRECTORS  
STATE OFFICE DIRECTORS**

**DN/02/00224**

**PROHIBITED USE OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS  
FOR THE MARKING OF PLAYING FIELDS**

A student and teacher received severe burns recently by using a flammable liquid to mark lines on a playing field. The flammable liquid used was a paint thinner.

**WorkCover Authority of NSW has served a Prohibition Notice on the Department that forbids the use of flammable liquids to mark lines on a playing field.**

Education Gazette No.1 of 5 February 1981 referred to the potential dangers of using hydrated lime (commonly purchased as agricultural lime) as a line marking agent in the preparation of playing fields and athletic tracks. The inherent risks are lime blowing into peoples' eyes in windy weather, or contact by falling onto the marked surface.

Safety Bulletin No.6 of November 1993 also stated:

*.....hydrated lime is not to be used to mark playing fields. The ban on the use of hydrated lime for marking school playing fields is to continue.*

*Materials chosen for line marking should be non-toxic, non-alkaline and non-hazardous.*

Would you please ensure that flammable liquids or hydrated lime are not used to mark lines on playing fields

Only water-based acrylic paint, coloured oxides mixed in water, or aerosol paint

sprays used in machines specifically designed for marking and spraying activities, are to be used.

Please bring this memorandum to the attention of all relevant staff in your workplace.

Paul Irving  
**General Manager of Personnel**  
24 June 2002