

Crews out in force at Narangba incident



More than 20 fire appliances and 80 firefighters responded to one of the biggest factory fires seen in Brisbane in recent years in late August.

Crews from across Brisbane and turned out to the incident at the Binary Chemicals complex at Narangba, north of Brisbane, at about 2200hrs on August 25.

The ferocity of the blaze, which enveloped two buildings, sent several

200-litre chemical drums shooting spectacularly into the night sky, while burning herbicides and pesticides sent toxic fumes spewing into the air.

The intense flames could be seen from many kilometres away and featured prominently on news bulletins around the country.

Police quickly invoked the Public Safety Preservation Act and closed off streets surrounding the incident.



The Local Disaster Management Group was also activated.

Authorities even considered evacuating residents from the Deception Bay area until officers from the QFRS Scientific Unit took air quality samples and declared the scene safe.

The incident also presented a toxic runoff

threat and the local council was activated to build dam walls to prevent the chemicals from reaching local waterways.

At noon on August 29, the site was finally handed back to the owners, who were faced with the daunting responsibility of the final cleanup and building demolition.

Lucky escape for four

The four occupants of this house at Wavell Heights in Brisbane were lucky to escape a ferocious blaze last month. The owners woke up to thick smoke before quickly alerting their downstairs tenants. The two tenants were pensioners who lived in self-contained flats on the ground floor. They lost all their possessions in the fire including a treasured 1960 FB Holden and two other vehicles. Despite the material loss, the owner was relieved all had survived. Photo by Matt Hayes.

