

RISK ASSESSMENT – SNOW EXPERIMENT

ACTIVITY:	MAKING SNOW USING SODIUM POLYACRYLATE	DATE:	9.12.15
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PERSONS AT RISK- AFFECTED BY ACTIVITY:	Persons attending the workshop	NUMBER	0 - 20
ANY VULNERABLE PERSONS AFFECTED BY ACTIVITY:	Children	NUMBER	0 - 20

POTENTIAL HAZARDS		Assessment of Risk		
REF.		Low	Med	High
1	Using sodium polyacrylate – risk of ingestion, irritation to eyes, skin or respiratory tract	x		
2	Using sodium polyacrylate – risk of spillage and causing slip hazard	x		

EXISTING CONTROL MEASURES
<p>1. Risks are minimal chemical is being used in very low amounts and is not classed as hazardous. Sodium Polyacrylate can cause irritation to skin, eyes and respiratory tract. It is non-toxic if ingested. Experiment should be carried out in a well ventilated room and individuals should wear protective clothing i.e. lab coats, safety specs and gloves. Chemicals should be kept away from children and clearly labelled to avoid accidental consumption. Spillages should be cleaned up a brush or vacuum where possible. If water has been used take care as surfaces may then become slippy. Skin irritation can be helped by washing the area with plenty of soap and water. An eye wash or water should be available and used if any chemical gets in an individual’s eyes. Make sure particles have been removed from under the eyelids. Eyes should be rinsed for at least 15 minutes with water or eye wash. Is non-toxic if accidentally ingested however if adverse symptoms arise seek medical assistance. If inhaled moved individual to a source of fresh air. Sodium polyacrylate is non-hazardous and can be put in the domestic waste (not down the sink). Chemicals will be aliquoted into beakers before the experiment starts to avoid the risk of spillage.</p>
<p>2. A first aider should be present at all times in case of an accident.</p>
<p>3. A first aid kit should always be available in case of an accident.</p>

INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL RISK	LOW	X	MEDIUM		HIGH	
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RISK RATING = SEVERITY x LIKELIHOOD		
Rating	SEVERITY of injury/disease	LIKELIHOOD of occurrence
HIGH	Fatality; major injury or illness causing long term disability	Certain or near certain to occur
MEDIUM	Injury or illness causing short term disability	Reasonably likely to occur
LOW	Other injury or illness	Unlikely to occur

ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES - (IF APPLICABLE)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION	COMPLETION DATE
None required		

RESIDUAL ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL RISK	LOW	X	MEDIUM		HIGH	
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Note: Re-assessment required if overall residual risk is High

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (Notes, comments, further details, outline procedures, safe systems of work, standards, drawings, etc.)			
In this section of the workshop individuals will be using red cabbage to test for acids and alkalis. There is a minimal risk from the chemicals being used. Various measures are in place to keep the risk to a minimum also the volumes of chemical in use are low and this helps to reduce any risk.			
Signature of responsible person:			Date:
Assessor:		Signature:	
Date Assessed:		Review Date:	