# SSERC logo

**SSERC Risk Assessment** (revised version March 2018)

(based on HSE’s INDG 163 ‘Risk assessment - A brief guide to controlling risks in the workplace’)

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| Activity assessed | Salts of strong and weak acids |
| *Date of assessment* | 30th June 2020 |
| *Date of review (****Step 5****)* |  |
| *School* |  |
| *Department* |  |

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Step 4 | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *List Significant hazards here:* | *Who might be harmed and how?* | *What are you already doing?*  *What further action is needed?* | *Actions* | | | | |
| *by whom?* | | *Due date* | | *Done* |
| Universal indicator is flammable. | Demonstrator/audience by ignition. | Keep away from sources of ignition. |  |  | |  | |
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| **Description of activity:**  Samples of sea water (either genuine or made to a recipe) and tap water have universal indicator added. The demonstrator blows into both flasks simultaneously, using a T-piece.  The tap water goes yellow much faster than the sea water due to the buffering action of the carbonate/hydrogen carbonate system in sea water. |
| **Additional comments:**  Sea water is slightly alkaline (about pH 8-8.5) so it will be a darker green. For a more convincing demonstration, adjust the colour of the tap water by adding 1 or 2 drops of **very** dilute NaOH or Na2CO3. |