

## Sodium in water incident

An incident has come to our attention that merits wider circulation.

One method of carrying out the alkali metal in water reaction is to place a perspex sheet flat on the top of the basin of water, rather than using safety screens set up vertically around the trough.

In general, there seems to be no problem with this method. However, recently a teacher, having carried out the experiment once did it again shortly after, just moving the cover enough to allow the fresh piece of sodium to be dropped in.

The spark as the sodium came in contact with the water was enough to ignite the hydrogen air mixture that had been produced by the previous batch and a jet of flame shot out of the narrow opening, burning the teacher. Fortunately, not causing major injury.

The lesson to be learned here is that if you are using this method, remove the covering completely for a few seconds before a repeat experiment to allow the hydrogen to disperse. <<

## Everybody needs good NEBOSH

SSERC's chemistry specialist Chris Lloyd has become the latest member of the organisation to gain the NEBOSH National Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety. This is a major achievement as the qualification involves extensive studying, exams and the submission of a lengthy dissertation.

The Diploma is evidence of a deep understanding of Occupational Health and Safety. Having staff who hold this qualification is of great benefit to SSERC and to our members. It is the gateway to Chris attaining Chartered Membership of IoSH, another certification that is highly regarded by those in the health and safety community. <<

