

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR LONE WORKING SCIENCE & BIO WORKERS

| Hazard / Risk  | Who is at risk and how can the hazards cause harm?   | What are we doing already?  | What else can be done?   | Action by Whom? | Action by When? | Done |
|--|--|---|--|-----------------|-----------------|------|
| <b>Slips and trips</b><br>Examples: stairs, wires, spillages | Staff could have an accident / injury, plus delayed assistance in emergency for lone workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using wet floor signs</li> <li>Lone Working Device</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LONEALERT Instant or Plus device</li> </ul>   |                 |                 |      |
| <b>Disposal of acid residues</b>                             | Staff could be harmed from reaction with other waste materials                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acid must be neutralised before disposal using Sodium Carbonate.</li> <li>Test with litmus/universal indicator paper to ensure neutrality.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LONEALERT Instant or Plus device</li> </ul>   |                 |                 |      |
| <b>Using The Hotplate</b>                                    | Staff could suffer burns to hands and forearms   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use tweezers/forceps to place and remove slides on hotplate</li> <li>If leaving the empty hotplate switched on and unattended (i.e. to warm up), place a sign indicating that it is hot on the fume cupboard window</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LONEALERT Instant or Plus device</li> </ul>   |                 |                 |      |
| <b>Fire</b>  | If trapped, staff could suffer fatal injuries from smoke inhalation or burns                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Company has done a risk assessment and taken the necessary action</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise new staff on emergency procedures, including location of fire exits</li> </ul> |                 |                 |      |
| <b>Out of hours</b>  | All staff  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff could become ill, have an accident or be attacked but if there is no one around there could be a delay in emergency assistance</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LONEALERT Access, Instant or Plus device</li> </ul>                                   |                 |                 |      |

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| <b>Hazardous Chemicals</b> | Staff risk skin irritation or eye damage from direct contact with cleaning chemicals. Vapour from cleaning chemicals may also cause breathing problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab coat, safety glasses and gloves must be worn at all times. - the thin disposable gloves are NOT adequate when using HF</li> <li>• Conc. HCl / Nitric Acid / Hydrofluoric Acid must be used in the fume cupboard with the window pulled down to the safe working height as indicated</li> <li>• Always add acid to water.</li> <li>• Allow beakers to cool before removing from the hotplate</li> <li>• Clear up any spillages immediately according to COSHH guidelines.</li> <li>• Ensure that all disposable pipettes that have come into contact with the acid are rinsed immediately after use and before disposal.</li> <li>• Measure out HF using the dispenser provided and always on the tray provided. The tray should be washed and dried before returning to the cupboard.</li> <li>• Wipe down all surfaces in the fume cupboard after use to ensure there are no stray drips of acid.</li> <li>• Wash down apron and gloves before removing and before handling anything else.</li> <li>• Should HF come into contact with skin follow emergency first aid procedure outlined in the guidance leaflet (available from the Lab Supervisor).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul> |                 |                 |      |

If you feel that the solution to any of your identified risks is a product from the LONEALERT range, please contact our team on 0330 999 8484. They will be happy to talk through the most suitable product and method of use to mitigate the risk.