# 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 | Silver Christmas tree |
| *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* |
| Silver nitrate is corrosive and dangerous for the environment. | Technician or teacher by inhalation or splashes | Avoid breathing any dust  Wear goggles (EN 166 3) and nitrile gloves |  |  | |  | |
| Copper nitrate (the product) is oxidizing and corrosive. | Technician, teacher and pupils by splashes | Wear goggles (EN 166 3) and nitrile gloves |  |  | |  | |

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| **Description of activity:**  Carrying out a redox reaction by placing a copper wire shaped like an Xmas tree and placed into a Petri dish.  A displacement reaction takes place and dendritic crystals of silver appear on the surface of the wire. |
| **Additional comments:**  Needless to say – you don’t **have** to have it in the shape of a Christmas tree!  Remove any burs/ rough edges from the strip of copper.  Ensure hands are washed afterwards.  Any washings, should be washed directly down drains with copious quantities of water. |