

## Safe Working Procedure for Sodium Metal

Sodium is a soft metal that can be cut with an ordinary knife. It tarnishes rapidly in air and should be stored in a sealed container under mineral oil. It reacts violently with water and is likely to cause ignition of the hydrogen gas generated

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jw9p-5t8wWY&feature=fvst> )

### Precaution

Sodium should never be allowed to come into contact with water. Reactions with volatile alcohols (methanol, ethanol) should be under controlled conditions under an inert atmosphere. Excess sodium and sodium residues on knives etc should be destroyed by prolonged soaking in *iso*-propanol.

Sodium must never be brought into contact with halogenated solvents as an explosion may occur.

The following personal protective equipment (PPE) is to be used:

Safety Glasses, Labcoat, Latex gloves, Long pants, Covered shoes

Sodium must only be handled in a well ventilated fume cupboard. Handling and destruction under inert gas (e.g. nitrogen from an invert nitrogen funnel) is strongly recommended.

Prepared by,

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Approved by,

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