Soldering Risk Assessment

Activity	What are the hazards? [Or Issues]	Who might be harmed?	What are the existing controls?
Soldering	Dry burns from touching hot items	Students / staff	Students shown how to use the soldering iron safely and hazard explained. Students reminded that some materials conduct heat very effectively. Soldering iron stands will be used when the iron is at rest. Students should have plenty of room around them when using soldering irons. Trailing leads cause trips and burns -irons should have short leads, and be plugged in so they do not trail
	Electric shock after accidentally melting through mains lead	Students	Students will be warned of this possibility. The lab electricity supply should include an RCD. Annual PAT testing.
	Danger of poisoning from fumes	Students	Lead free solder should be used if available. Students should be instructed to avoid breathing fumes. The activity should take place in a large, or well-ventilated, room.

NB - Following completion of the risk assessment you should ensure the controls identified are included within your work procedures / method statements / work instructions and safe systems of work. HSE Guide - Five steps to risk assessment

Summary: Burns may happen from time to time but if students are clearly instructed the number of occurrences and severity of the burns will be minimal. The level of supervision must match the age/needs of the group.

Note that the First Aid treatment for burns and scalds involves placing the affected part under cold running water immediately and for at least ten minutes. No creams of any kind should be used. Assistance should be sought from the health centre for any burns larger than, say, a ten pence coin and any significant burns on joints.

Older students will be reminded of this and for minor burns can treat themselves.