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Environmental Health and
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Emergency Shower/Eyewash Station Bulletin

The first 10 to 15 seconds after exposure to a hazardous substance are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may cause serious injury. Emergency Shower/Eyewash stations should be no more than 10 seconds away or 15-30 meters (50 to 100 feet) on an unobstructed path.

Flush for at least 15 minutes! Water does not neutralize the contaminant; it only dilutes and washes away. If irritation persists, repeat flushing.

Eyewash Stations

The eyewash station should deliver fluid to both eyes simultaneously and the volume should not be at a velocity, which may injure the eyes. The user should be able to keep their eyes open and the eyewash remains operational without a hand on the lever. You may find though that you have to hold your eyelids open with your fingers to allow proper flushing. The wearing of contact lenses can be dangerous because chemicals can become trapped under a lens (how much time does it take to remove a contact lens?) ***Seek medical attention immediately.***

Emergency Showers

The shower should deliver a pattern of water that will come into contact with the entire body. The shower should remain operational without the user's hand on the lever. Equipment and clothing should be removed under the shower once it has been activated. If necessary, a fellow employee may help remove contaminated clothing. Modesty has no place in emergency situations! However, a fellow employee may also assist by using an article as a shield to provide privacy. Safety showers should not however be used to flush eyes due to the high pressure of the water flow. Seek medical attention.

Maintenance and Testing

Caretaking staff are instructed to inspect and flush eyewashes in public areas weekly. Eyewash stations situated in a lab are to be inspected and flushed by lab personnel weekly. To inspect your eyewash station, run for at least three minutes. Please see eyewash station checklist on next page. ***Physical Plant inspects all Emergency showers annually.***

NOTE: Non-plumbed self-contained eyewash stations that are serviced by an external contractor do not require weekly testing. Contact Physical Plant 204-474-6281 immediately if these need maintenance or flushing solution refill.

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Emergency Shower and Eyewash Inspection Checklist
(Based on the ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2014 Standard)

Emergency Showers

Annual maintenance/Inspections of emergency showers are to be conducted by Physical Plant Plumbing Shop trades.

- | | Yes |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Shower location is identified with a visible sign with an unobstructed travel path. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Water delivered by shower is a tepid temperature. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Shower has a tag indicating the last inspection date. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Eyewashes Stations

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Is the area surrounding the eyewash station free of all obstructions? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Is the eyewash easily activated? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are the nozzles equipped with protective covers? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Are the covers removed by activation of the eyewash? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Is the water flowing from both eyepieces? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Is the flow of water clear? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Does the spray pattern deliver a steady stream of water? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Does the flow continue until the unit is returned to its resting position? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Does the water drain properly from the basin/sink? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Is the water temperature constant and tepid? | <input type="checkbox"/> |