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## **InfoSafetyBulletin** **Eyewash/Safety Showers**

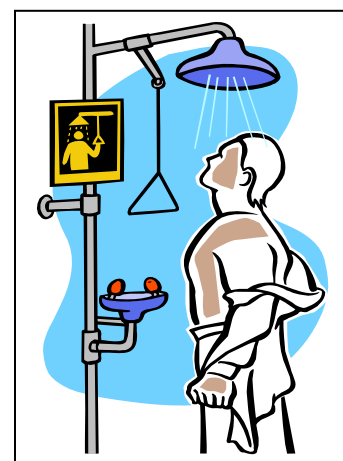
The first 10 to 15 seconds after exposure to a hazardous substance are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may cause serious injury. Eyewash/safety showers should be no more than 10 seconds away or 15-30 meters (50 to 100 feet) on an unobstructed path.

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



For **eyewashes**, the eyewash 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.

For **safety 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! Though, 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. Eyewashes situated in a lab are to be inspected and flushed by lab personnel weekly. To inspect your eyewash, run for at least three minutes (an eyewash inspection checklist can be obtained from EHSO). Report any problems to Physical Plant. All safety showers are inspected yearly by Physical Plant. NOTE: There are some non-plumbed self-contained eyewash stations that are serviced by an external contractor and do not require weekly testing. Contact Physical Plant 474- 6281 immediately if these need maintenance or flushing solution refill.