




The Environmental Health & Safety Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency Eyewash Stations and Safety Showers was developed






Request immediate repair for malfunctioning emergency Eyewash and Safety Shower equipment.

Employees and students have the following responsibilities under this SOP:

- Follow the requirements of this SOP.
- Becoming familiar with the location and operation of the nearest emergency Eyewash, Safety Shower, flushing fluid and/or washes.
- Use the emergency Eyewash, Safety Shower, flushing fluid and/or washes as trained.
- Report incidents that require the use of an emergency Eyewash, Safety Shower, flushing fluid and/or washes to supervisory person/uid and/to se of o f




Eyewash: A device used to provide Tepid fluid to irrigate and flush both eyes simultaneously at a velocity low enough not to be injurious to the user.

Hand-Held Drench Hose: A flexible hose connected to a water supply that is used to provide fluid to irrigate eyes, face and body area.

Hazardous Material: Any substance or compound that has the capability of producing  
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from the area(s) where there is a reasonable potential for injury due to contact with a  
Hazardous








Immediate and proper use of emergency Eyewash and Safety Showers is essential to minimizing injury. The following guidelines should aid in minimizing injury due to contact with Hazardous Materials:

Flush eyes and/or skin for at least 15 minutes. Never use home-made neutralizing solutions to flush chemicals from the body.

Immediately remove contaminated clothing. Do this while under the Safety Shower when gross contamination has occurred. Have someone assist with clothing removal when possible.

Hold eyelids open with fingers so flushing fluid can fully irrigate the eyes. Note: People may not always be able to flush their eyes on their own because of intense pain. Nearby helpers should be prepared to assist with holding the eyelids open. Other helpers may need to assist with keeping the person under the flushing fluid for at least 15 minutes.

Seek medical attention after flushing the areas of contact for at least 15 minutes.

Notify supervisor as soon as the emergency has subsided.

An assistant may use a blanket or uncontaminated article of clothing as a shield to provide privacy for someone who needs to remove their clothes while under an emergency Safety Shower, and for body coverage while seeking medical attention.

Emergency Eyewash station and Eye/Face Wash stations must be activated weekly to ensure flushing fluid is available, to clear the supply line of any sediment build-up and to minimize microbial contamination due to stagnant water. Inspect Eyewash and Eye/Face Wash stations while flushing to make sure that water rises to approximately equal heights no more than 20 cm (8 in) from the top of (fl)-5 (u)-3 (( f)3 (r 1 (h a)4 (nd )TJ(E)Tj-(20 )Tj-30.025 0 )3 0 )-2 (m)-2 ((t)-2 (a)

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Whenever an Eyewash station is non-functional, a portable Eyewash station or equivalent must be available if work with injurious Hazardous Materials cannot be delayed.

Each department is responsible for ensuring that Eyewash and Safety Shower equipment not passing inspection is repaired in a priority manner. When emergency Eyewash and Safety Shower equipment is non-functional, it must be clearly tagged/signed as being out-of-service.

Anyone who wants to remove an emergency Eyewash and Safety Shower equipment from service must notify the Department of Environmental Health & Safety and the affected department beforehand. This requirement includes those periods when main or branch water lines that serve drenching and flushing equipment are turned off.

Version 1.0: April 2006 – Initial Release

Revision 2.0: August 2015 – Permission for drains added.

Revision 3.0: June 2017 – Minor changes to wording.

Revision 4.0: October 2018 – Minor changes to wording.

Revision 4.1: May 2021 – Allowance for weekly inspections of Combination Units to be limited to the Eyewash so long as both the Eyewash and shower are supplied by the same water source.

Revision 5.0: February 2023 – Changes shower inspection frequency to monthly to match standard practice in the Ontario university sector.