



Title: **Emergency Safety Showers and Eyewashes**

EH&S – 1-7

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Pages 4

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for the proper installation, use, inspection and maintenance of emergency safety showers and eyewashes.

SCOPE: Hospital wide.

DEFINITIONS:

Flushing Fluid: any of potable (drinking) water, preserved water, preserved buffered saline solution or other medically acceptable solutions.

Flushing Time: ANSI Z358.1 requires that the affected body part must be flushed immediately and thoroughly for at least 15 minutes using a large supply of clean fluid under low pressure. A longer time, such as 60 minutes for penetrating corrosive materials is recommended by other sources.

Activation/Control Valve: The valve shall be designed so that the water flow remains on without requiring the use of the operator's hands and shall remain activated until intentionally shut off. Valve activation shall be simple and go from "off" to "on" in less than 1 second.

PROCEDURES:

I. Responsibilities

A. Environmental Health and Safety shall:

1. Assist in the determination of areas requiring safety showers and/or eyewashes.
2. Approve safety showers and eyewashes specifications.
3. Provide proper installation and inspection criteria.

B. Hospital Physical Plant

1. Test all safety showers quarterly and eyewashes annually, following ANSI Z358.1 protocol.
2. Install eyewashes in existing areas (not new construction), as per ANSI Z358.1.

3. Repair or replace eyewashes, as needed.
4. Maintain Physical Plant testing and repair records.

C. Departments with Eyewashes and/or Safety Showers

1. Department supervisors shall instruct staff on the location and proper operation of their safety equipment.
2. Ensure that departmental staff tests eyewashes weekly and maintain records of these inspections (Appendix A).

D. Facilities and Construction

1. Ensure the proper location and installation of eyewashes and safety showers for new construction, as per ANSI and this policy.

II. Location of Emergency Equipment

A. Emergency Eyewashes:

1. Required in areas where staff works with an injurious corrosive material, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, methylene chloride, hazardous drugs, or other areas deemed necessary by EH&S.
2. Install in identified areas in accessible locations that require no more than 10 seconds to reach and should be within a travel distance no greater than 100 feet from the hazard. They should be located on the same level as the hazard and the path of travel should be free of obstructions.

B. Emergency Showers and Showers with Eyewashes:

1. Required in areas where staff works with an injurious corrosive material, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, methylene chloride, hazardous drugs, or other areas deemed necessary by EH&S **AND** body splash potential exists.
2. Install in identified areas in accessible locations that require no more than 10 seconds to reach and should be within a travel distance no greater than 100 feet from the hazard. They should be located on the same level as the hazard and the path of travel should be free of obstructions.

III. Off-site Facilities

Staff should contact Off-site Facility Manager at 4-4380 or the Off-site EOC Coordinator at 4-4066 for any questions on eyewashes or safety showers.

INQUIRIES/REQUESTS: Environmental Health and Safety
L1-059 HSC
Zip 8017
Main Office: 444-6783
FAX: 444-6845

RELATED FORMS: Weekly Eyewash Inspection Log (Appendix A)

RELATED DOCUMENTS: ANSI Z358.1, Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment
29 CFR 1910.151, Medical and First Aid
29 CFR 1910.1048, Formaldehyde
29 CFR 1910.1052, Methylene Chloride
29 CFR 1910.1450, Appendix A, Occupational Exposures to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories

