

Emergency Eyewash Stations

Introduction

This Safety Instruction outlines the requirements for the maintenance and use of Emergency Eyewash units.

- **Emergency Eyewash** units are required in all areas where employees handle substances that are potentially injurious when in contact with the eyes, including areas where corrosive materials are used.
- **Safety Showers** are needed wherever there is a possibility that either highly corrosive or highly toxic chemicals may splash over substantial areas of the body.

How to Use an Eyewash Station

1. **After exposure, immediately go to an eyewash station and activate the lever**
 - a. **Dust covers will automatically pop off station**
2. **Place eyes directly over stream of water and flush for up to 15 minutes**
 - a. **If you have contact lenses, gently remove them while flushing**
 - b. **Hold your eyes open with your fingers**
 - c. **Gently roll your eyes to ensure complete flushing**
3. **Seek medical attention immediately**

Responsibilities:

Departments shall conduct and document **weekly** inspections of Eyewashes within the workspaces they manage. This includes ensuring:

- Inspections are documented and include the date and inspector's name or initials.
- The inspection document is maintained near the Eyewash (EH&S has inspection cards available upon request).
- Maintenance of a container under the drainpipe to collect discharge water when not plumbed to the sewer.
- Unobstructed access.
- The bowl and spouts are clean and free of trash.
- Protective eyewash covers are properly positioned, clean, and intact.
- Protective eyewash covers come off when activated.
- Water flows from both eyepieces and that the streams of water meet.
- Water flow continues until the paddle is moved to its resting position.
- Water drains from the bowl.
- Maintenance problems are promptly reported to Facilities Services (x3444)