Emergency Eyewashes & Showers

How to Perform the Weekly Required Inspections and Tests and
How to Use
Weekly Inspections & Tests

- **PURPOSE:**
  - Flush water lines to ensure the water is clean.
  - Ensure that water flow is good and even;
  - Ensure that all parts are work properly;
  - Ensure the areas around all units are clear and unobstructed;
  - Ensure caps/covers are in place to protect nozzles from dirt/debris and come off with water flow
  - Make sure that deficiencies are reported to maintenance and corrected immediately.
“Tepid” Water

- **Tepid** – Moderately warm or lukewarm; 60 - 100°F

- Water too cool found to be the #1 reason why injured worker does not remain in water flow for recommended length of time!!!
Emergency Eyewashes

Water stream must be of equal height & high enough to allow user to use his/her hands to hold eyelids apart while face is in water stream.

Actuator paddle requires a single motion to open the water flow valve – and stays open until manually closed.

Illustration is from the “ANSI Z358.1-2004 Compliance Checklist” Guidelines by Guardian Equipment Company.
Eyewashes – Activating the Water Flow

- These styles of emergency eyewash units are activated by either pulling down on the arm or swinging the unit into place over a sink.
Faucet / Eyewash Combination Unit

- This is the **ONLY** faucet spigot / eyewash combination unit that is approved for use.
- To activate the flow, pull on the handle labeled “PULL”.

Mfr: Speakman Company
Drench Hose

- These types of drench hoses do **NOT** qualify as an emergency eyewash or facewash, but they are very useful to supplement an eyewash.
- They also must be inspected and water flowed to clear the plumbing lines.
Signage

Signage should be provided to indicate location of eyewash.
Problem Conditions

A  Extremely low water flow
B  Uneven water flow / blocked access
C  Blocked travel swing
D  Dirty nozzle & bowl
Eyewashes: Inspection Process

Begin with a visual

Look for:
- leaks or pipe damage,
- loose fittings,
- protective covers / caps
- unit is free of any obstructions
- a clear travel path to the unit
Eyewashes: Inspection Process

- **Activate the unit** – *(If there is no drain, place a bucket under the open drain)*
  
  - Ensure that the water flow is abundant and continuous
  
  - Run the water for 2 to 3 minutes to ensure the lines are flushed
  
  - This flushing of the pipes ensures removal of rust deposits and bacterial contamination that can occur in stagnant water.
Eyewashes: Inspection Process

- Evaluate whether the unit can maintain a water flow for 15 minutes and is not injurious to the user's eye or face.
- Valve actuator must stay on unless manually turned off and must activate water flow in one second or less.
- Flow of water must be provided to both eyes simultaneously.
- Water pressure should be sufficient for water stream to be high enough to allow user to hold eyelids open with hands.
- Water pressure should not cause damage to the eyes.
Eyewashes:
Inspection Process

- **Report deficiencies to the maintenance department for repair.**
- **Clean** the unit nozzles and bowl (if present) of any grime or debris.
- **Document** test results with dates and initials through an approved method of recording results, such as a tag or on a form.
  - Record conditions found during inspection & testing and corrective actions taken.
This department noticed a water pressure problem, reported it to maintenance, it was repaired – all actions recorded on the inspection record.

Also noted some items that were obstructing access to the unit. They noted the items were removed.

Date of inspection, water flow, & inspector’s initials are documented.
Emergency Showers: Weekly Flush Test

- A test shower enclosure and bucket “kit”, such as shown, is required to test the shower and contain the water.

- **Visual inspection of the unit.** Look for leaks, pipe damage, loose fittings, damage to actuators.

- **Activate unit.** Ensure that the water flow is continuous, evaluate that the unit can maintain flow for 15 minutes.
  - Valve actuator must stay on unless manually turned off and must activate water flow in one second or less.
  - The shower unit must be capable of delivering not less than 20 gallons per minute of flushing fluid.

- **Document test results and corrective actions with dates and initials** on unit tag or other approved recording method.
Reporting Defects or Deficiencies

- If the emergency unit is not operating to specifications, employees in the area must initiate appropriate corrective action.
- Notify your supervisor to implement appropriate tagging of unit as “DO NOT USE”, if applicable.
- The supervisor must notify Maintenance / Facility Services Department for repair or replacement.
- Follow up, as needed, to ensure the unit is repaired.
How to Use an Eyewash

Important Steps for Saving Your Vision
Step 1

- Move to the eyewash as soon as a chemical enters the eyes.
- Call out to coworkers for help.
- Get to the eyewash within 10 seconds if at all possible.
Step 2

- Push actuator or lever to start water flow
Step 3

- Begin to flush eyes
- If necessary, have a coworker assist in ensuring water is flushing area appropriately
Step 4

- Hold the eyes open
- Natural instinct is to squint, but for flushing to work, the eyelids must be held open
Step 5

- Rotate eyeballs in all directions to remove contamination from around the eyes and under the eyelids
Step 6

- Flushing should continue for 15 minutes.
- A coworker can watch the time and encourage the injured worker to stay in the flow of water for the full 15 minutes.
- During this time, someone should locate the SDS for the chemical.
Step 7

- Remove contacts
- Contacts have the potential to absorb a chemical and hold it against the eyeball
- Discard the contacts
Step 8

- Seek medical attention
- Employee should be seen by OccuHealth or ED, as appropriate
- Bring or fax SDS so that Health Care Provider has information on chemical employee was exposed to
Step 9

- Report the injury or exposure
- Notify your supervisor immediately
- Call the OUCHLine
- Complete an RL-6
- Make sure you tell OccuHealth/ED that it is a work-related exposure so that an FROI can be completed
How to Use an Emergency Shower

Removing the chemical quickly and completely to minimize damage to the skin and body
Step 1

- Move to the shower as quickly as possible
- Call out to coworkers for help
Step 2

- Pull handle or lever
- Move into water, focusing on area that is most contaminated
Step 3

- Remove clothing and any other contaminated items such as glasses or jewelry
- Contaminated articles can hold the chemical against the skin, prolonging exposure time
Step 4

- Remain in the shower for 15 minutes
- A coworker can assist in marking the time, encouraging the employee to remain in the shower and holding open the eyelids, if necessary
- During this time, someone should locate the SDS for the chemical
Step 5

- Seek medical attention
- Employee should be seen by OccuHealth or ED, as appropriate
- Bring or fax SDS so that Health Care Provider has information on chemical employee was exposed to
Step 6

- Report the injury or exposure
- Notify your supervisor immediately
- Call the OUCHLine
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