

University of North Dakota

Safety and Environmental Health Office

Standard
Practice
200

Emergency Eyewash and Shower Stations

Effective January 1, 1998

I. PURPOSE

This Standard Practice establishes procedures that are used in the upkeep and use of emergency eyewash and shower stations.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the University of North Dakota to provide its staff, students, and visitors with the safest working conditions that are practical and reasonably attainable. Therefore, emergency eyewash and shower stations are required where there is a reasonable probability of injury that may be addressed by an eyewash and/or shower station. The wearing of safety glasses, goggles, or face shields remains the primary means of controlling eye and face injuries. Additionally, wearing of chemical resistant aprons or body suits is the primary protection for full body exposure to a chemical splash.

III. SCOPE

This standard practice applies to all university departments and employees at the University or University-controlled sites.

IV. REFERENCES

- A. OSHA Standard, 29 CFR 1910.151
- B. OSHA Standard, 29 CFR 1926.50
- C. ANSI Standard, Z358.1-1990, American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment
- D. Laboratory Health and Safety Handbook, R. Scott Stricoff and Douglas B. Walters, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1990

V. DEFINITIONS

- A. Combination Unit: A unit combining a shower with an eyewash or eye/face wash, or with a drench hose, or with both, into one common assembly.
- B. Emergency Shower: A unit that enables the user to have water cascading over the entire body.

- C. Eye-Face Wash: A device used to irrigate and flush both the face and the eyes.
- D. Flushing Fluid: Potable water or other medically acceptable solution.
- E. Hand-Held Drench Hose: A flexible hose connected to a water supply and used to irrigate and flush eyes, face, and body areas.
- F. Personal Eyewash (Bottle): A supplementary eyewash that supports plumbed, self-contained eyewashes or both, by delivering immediate flushing for less than 15 minutes.
- G. Plumbed Eyewash: An eyewash unit permanently connected to a source of potable water.
- H. Potable Water: Water that is suitable for drinking.
- I. Self-contained Eyewash: An eyewash device that contains its own flushing fluid that must be refilled or replaced after each use. Self-contained eyewash stations must have at least a 15-minute fluid supply.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Occupational Safety and Environmental Health Office is the office of primary responsibility for ensuring that this program meets all applicable regulatory standards. The Safety Office is responsible for:
 - 1. Overseeing the purchasing, installation, training, and testing of all eyewash and showers.
 - 2. Maintaining the master record set of all records concerning the type, installation, training, testing and use of all emergency equipment. The records will be retained for at least a three year period.
 - 3. Conducting periodic audits of the various emergency shower and eyewash equipment to ensure continued efficiency and operation.
 - 4. Provide flushing services unless departments request, in writing, to designate one of their own employees to perform flushing services.
 - 5. Providing flushing and/or inspection checklists where designated department employees are charged with flushing and inspection responsibilities.
 - 6. Providing appropriate training to the employees who are charged with flushing responsibilities of the various shower and eyewash equipment.
 - 7. Providing appropriate training to employees in the proper use of emergency showers and eyewashes.

B. Department Chair/Director is responsible for:

1. Ensuring that employees who are required to use emergency showers and eyewashes are provided training in a timely manner.
2. Providing for the necessary emergency shower and eyewash equipment and/or parts as required. Requesting immediate repair for any malfunctioning eyewash or shower station.

C. Each affected employee is responsible for:

1. Following the requirements of this Standard Practice and for using the emergency shower and eyewash equipment as trained.
2. Familiarizing themselves with the location and operation of the nearest eyewash and/or shower.
3. Reporting to their supervisor any incident that required the use of an eyewash and/or shower station.

VII. EMERGENCY SHOWER AND EYEWASH STATIONS

- A. Emergency shower and eyewash stations should be available in all laboratories or other areas where injurious or corrosive chemicals are used or stored.
- B. Emergency shower and eyewash stations provide for an immediate drench of the eyes and/or skin. Therefore, they are normally located to be accessible within 10 seconds and placed not more than 100 feet from a hazard. Access to a shower or eyewash should be available without intervening partitions or obstructions.
- C. When used, a person must flush their eyes and/or skin for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical assistance and then notify supervisory personnel of the incident.

VIII. EYEWASH BOTTLE STATION

- A. This type of station is not intended to replace a plumbed or self-contained eyewash station, but to be used in conjunction with either station.
- B. Bottles must be sealed and have an expiration date on the bottle.

IX. FLUSHING/INSPECTIONS

- A. Each plumbed eyewash station must be flushed weekly and inspected as determined by the Occupational Safety and Environmental Health Office.
- B. Each self-contained eyewash that is in use, must be flushed following the manufacturer's guidelines. When a preservative solution is used, the eyewash flushing must follow the solution manufacturer's specifications.
- C. Each eyewash bottle station must be reviewed weekly to ensure that the station is being maintained following the manufacturer's specifications and that the containers are sealed and have not passed their expiration date.
- D. Emergency showers must be flushed monthly and inspected as determined by the Occupational Safety and Environmental Health Office.
- E. Each eyewash, shower, or bottle station not passing inspection or requiring repair, must have adequate signage placed on the station. The signage must adequately warn employees working in the area that the emergency flushing station is not in service.

X. REPAIRS

- A. Each department is responsible for ensuring that equipment not passing inspection is repaired in a priority manner. When an emergency shower and/or eyewash station is non-functional, appropriate signage must be placed on the shower and/or eyewash warning employees working in the area that the equipment is out-of-service.
- B. Maintenance personnel must notify the Occupational Safety and Environmental Health Office and the affected department whenever an emergency shower and/or eyewash station is rendered non-functional because of maintenance or repair activities.
- C. Whenever an eyewash station is non-functional, a portable eyewash station or equivalent should be available.