



# Safe Operating Procedure

(Revised 7/24)

## **EMERGENCY EYEWASH AND SHOWER EQUIPMENT**

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**Emergency eyewash stations and showers are not substitutes for eye and face protection and protective clothing.**

### **Location**

Emergency showers and eyewash stations are required in chemical, biological, and radioactive laboratories. They are also required in shop areas where hazardous chemicals are used and/or acid batteries are charged. Eyewash stations and emergency showers should be located within 10 seconds unobstructed travel of the hazard; preferably within the laboratory/shop/work area; and preferably within 10 feet of the hazard. They should not be located in close proximity to an electrical hazard.

### **Design**

Units must comply with ANSI standards. Eyewash stations must feature hands free operation and provide 15 minutes of continuous flow at 0.4 gallons per minute. Showers must feature hands free operation and deliver 20 gallons per minute for a minimum of 15 minutes. Hand-held drench hoses may be used in conjunction with safety showers and eyewash stations, but are not a substitute for safety showers or eyewash stations. Additional design specifications include:

- The location should be well lit, highly visible, and marked with a highly visible sign.
- Sewer connection or drain is not required but does facilitate testing (particularly eyewash stations).
- Units shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Eyewash nozzles should be 83.8 to 114.3 cm (33 to 45 inches) from the user's standing surface.
- Mount showers overhead with head height 208.3 to 243.8 cm (82 to 96 inches) from floor or platform and the valve actuator less than or equal to 173.3 cm (69 inches) above the user's standing surface.



- Tepid water supply is recommended (but cold only is acceptable if tepid supply is not feasible).
- Portable eyewash units to be used only where fixed installation is not feasible. Self-contained and portable units must provide 1.5 liters per minute (0.4 gallons per minute) for 15 minutes (equals six-gallon capacity).

## **Maintenance**

- Flush eyewash stations weekly. Notify the Service Desk if the flow or spray pattern appears inadequate.
- Keep covers for eyewash nozzles in place to protect from dust and debris.
- Building Systems Maintenance conducts annual testing of safety showers located in University of Nebraska-Lincoln buildings on the Lincoln, NE campuses.