

Emergency Eyewash & Shower Testing Program

Summary: The purpose of this program is to ensure that safety eyewashes and showers supply clean, potable water and are in proper working order. This program applies to all emergency eyewash and shower units in hospital buildings.

1. Program Description
2. Scope
3. Responsibilities
4. Program Components
5. Reporting Requirements

1. Program Description

The purpose of this program is to ensure that safety eyewashes and showers supply clean, potable water and are in proper working order. This program defines guidelines for inspection, testing and maintenance of emergency eyewash and shower equipment.

2. Scope

This program applies to all emergency eyewash and shower units in VCUHS Hospital buildings, VCU Laboratories, Animal Resources, etc.

3. Responsibilities

3.1 PLANT OPERATIONS or VCU FACILITIES

- Repair any devices that are not working properly.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Provide general oversight of this program.
- Perform annual tests and verify proper operation of emergency eyewash and shower units throughout the hospital (downtown campus).
- Contacts Plant Operations or Facilities if unit is not functioning properly.

3.3 USERS

- Know the location of the emergency units in the building and ensure that the emergency units are clear of obstructions.
- Insure that appropriate signage for the stations is visible.
- Flush eyewashes weekly for 3 minutes to reduce bacteria buildup.
- Document weekly flushing.
- Contact Plant Operations or Facilities if unit is not functioning properly.

3.4 MCVP PRACTICE PLAN SAFETY AND FACILITIES COORDINATOR

- Will be responsible for coordinating testing for satellite locations

4. Program Components

4.1 General Requirements

4.1.1 Application: Emergency eyewash and shower units must be installed in work areas where there is high potential for accidents involving corrosive, irritant or toxic substance absorption through skin and eyes.

4.1.2 Location and Placement: The emergency eyewash and shower unit must be placed in a location no more than a maximum of 10 seconds travel time for an injured person through an unobstructed pathway. Specific placement requirements are listed below:

- **Eyewash and eye/face wash units:** Nozzles must be positioned between 33-45 inches from the floor. Also, a minimum distance of 6 inches from the nearest obstruction is required.
- **Drench hose units:** The head of the hose must be placed 33-45 inches from the floor with a clearance of 6 inches from the wall.
- **Emergency Showers:** The distance of showerhead to the floor must be between 82-96 inches. Actuator height must be no higher than 69 inches from the floor. Also showers must have a clearance of 48 inches along the side and 30 inches across (creating a surface area of 10 square feet around the shower unit).
- **Combination Units or Safety Stations:** Refer to the dimensions above for distance and clearance of the eye/face wash and shower units. Self-contained eye washes obviously cannot be activated weekly without using up valuable solution, so ANSI recommends visually inspecting the unit to see if the fluid needs changing or supplementing.

5.1.3 Correction of Deficiencies. If the emergency unit is not operating to specifications, employees in the area must initiate appropriate action. Notify your supervisor to implement appropriate tagging of unit as "DO NOT USE", if applicable. The supervisor must notify Plant Operations or facilities for repair or replacement.

4.2 Inventory and Equipment Identification:

- **A tag with identification must be placed on or near the emergency unit at all times.** Testers must sign their initials and date on tags (indicate weekly testing dates in separate log book using log sheets). These tags will inform users of the most recent inspection and testing of the emergency units. Also, the tags will assure the user that the unit is safe and ready to use. OEHS should replace missing tags as soon as possible.
- **Location of units will be identified with a highly visible sign.**
- **Failed tests will be corrected immediately.** Immediate corrective action must be performed when deficiencies are noted. If deficiencies cannot be immediately corrected, tag the unit "DO NOT USE", if applicable.

4.3 Testing:

4.3.1 Eyewash and Eye/Face wash units

Weekly Flush Test

- **Visual inspection of the unit.** Look for leaks or pipe damage and proper placement of protective covers. This should be done prior to testing in order to avoid further damage to the unit and risk of injury to users. Ensure that the unit is free of any obstructions.
- **Activate unit.** Ensure that the water flow is continuous, evaluate that the unit can maintain flow for 3 minutes, and is not injurious to the user's eye or face. Valve actuator must activate water flow in one second or less.
 - Valve actuator must stay on unless manually turned off and must activate water flow in one second or less.
 - Controlled flow of flushing fluid must be provided to both eyes simultaneously.
 - The unit must be capable of delivering not less than 0.4 gallons per minute of flushing fluid for 15 minutes.
- **Sanitize water supply through weekly flushing.** In order to relieve the unit of any rust and other pipe build-up, flush the unit for 3 minutes.
- **Document test with dates and initials in log book.** Be sure log book is easily accessible..

Annual Flow Test

- **OEHS testing of the device will be conducted *annually*.** Following established procedures let the water run for one minute to collect at least 1.5 liters (0.4 gallon) of water for eyewash alone and 11.4 liters (3.0 gallons) for an eye/face wash unit.
- **Document test with dates and initials on unit tag.** OEHS is responsible to ensure an appropriate tag is on all units. Please contact OEHS if tag is missing.

4.3.2 Emergency Showers

Annual Flush Test conducted by OEHS

- **Visual inspection of the unit.** Look for leaks, pipe damage, and proper placement of protective covers. This should be done prior to testing in order to avoid further damage to the unit and risk of injury to users and yourself. Also inspect each shower if they are in compliance with the ANSI Z358.1

requirements. Ensure that the unit is free of any obstructions.

- **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 unit must be capable of delivering not less than 20 gallons per minute of flushing fluid.
- **Sanitize water supply through flushing.** In order to relieve the unit of any rust and other pipe build-up, flush the unit until the water runs clear.
- **Document test with dates and initials on unit tag.** OEHS is responsible to ensure an appropriate tag is on all units.

5. Reporting Requirements

Emergency eyewash and shower testing log must be maintained by each unit and kept at a central location for a period of three years.

ChECKLIST	Y/N	Explain "No" response
1. Is the eyewash location marked with a sign?	_____	
2. Is the eyewash control device/actuator readily accessible, large enough and highly visible enough to be easily located?	_____	
3. Does the height from the standing surface to the water nozzles appear to fall within the range of 2'9" – 3'9" ?	_____	
4. Are the water nozzles covered in a manner so as to protect them from airborne contaminants?	_____	
5. Is the area around the water nozzles clear of obstructions and sharp objects (at least 6 inches from the nozzles in all directions)?	_____	
6. Is the eyewash positioned such that an individual in a wheelchair could maneuver up to it and use it?	_____	
7. Do the water nozzle covers automatically come off when the eyewash control device/actuator is activated?	_____	
8. Does water flow from the eyewash within one second of activation of the control device/actuator?	_____	
9. Was the test successfully performed?	_____	

