



Emergency Eyewash & Shower Testing Program

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Maintained online by the Environmental Health & Safety Committee

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 University buildings. This program defines guidelines for inspection, testing and maintenance of emergency eyewash and shower equipment.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Facilities Management:

- Repair any devices that are not working properly.
- Perform annual flow testing.

The Environmental Health & Safety Committee:

- 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 Facilities Management (x2349) if unit is not functioning properly.

Lab Managers/Users:

- Know the location of the emergency units in the building and ensure that the emergency units are clear of obstructions.
- Ensure that appropriate signage for the stations is visible.
- Flush eyewashes weekly for 3 minutes to reduce bacteria buildup.
- Document weekly flushing.
- Contact Facilities Management (x2349) if unit is not functioning properly.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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. Lab managers 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. Depending on the availability of other emergency equipment, certain laboratory activities may need to be suspended or relocated until repairs are completed.

TESTING:

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.
 - Confirm water is tepid (between 60-90°F)
 - 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

- Flow testing of the device will be conducted by Facilities Management.
 - 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. Facilities Management is responsible to ensure an appropriate asset tag is on all units. Please contact Facilities Management (x2349) if tag is missing.

Emergency Showers

Weekly Flush Test

- 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. Lab Managers are responsible to ensure an appropriate tag is on all units.

Annual Flow Test

- Conducted by Facilities Management
- Document test with dates and initials on unit tag. Facilities Management is responsible to ensure an appropriate asset tag is on all units. Please contact Facilities Management (x2349) if tag is missing.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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

Copies of the testing log should be submitted to the Risk & Compliance Office at the end of each semester.