



# VCU

## Safety and Risk Management

### **Emergency Eye Wash / Safety Showers Program**

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 located in facilities at the university.
3. Responsibilities:
  - a. Occupational Safety:
    - Provide general oversight of this program
    - Performs annual tests and verifies proper operation of emergency eyewash and shower units used throughout university facilities.
    - Contacts Facilities Maintenance if unit is not functioning properly.
  - b. Users:
    - Know the location of the emergency units designated for use in his or her work area
    - Ensures emergency units are clear of obstructions.
    - Verifies that appropriate signage for the stations is visible.
    - (Area Designee) Performs weekly flushing test.
    - Documents weekly flushing tests on provided log sheets.
    - Contacts Facilities Maintenance if unit is not functioning properly.
4. Program Components
  - a. Application/Installation: 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.
  - b. 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:
    - 1) 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.
    - 2) 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.
    - 3) 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).

- 4) 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. Plumable units are required when corrosive materials are present in the work space.
- c. Correction of Deficiencies.
    - If the emergency unit is not operating to specifications, corrective action must be initiated.
    - Notify your supervisor to implement appropriate tagging of unit as “DO NOT USE”
    - The supervisor must notify Facilities maintenance for repair or replacement.
  - d. Inventory and Equipment Identification.
    - Location of units will be identified with a highly visible sign.
    - A tag with identification must be placed on or near the emergency unit at all times.
    - Tag must indicate most recent annual inspection and testing date. (Contact Occupational Safety if tag is missing or becomes illegible.).
  - e. Testing:
    - 1) Eyewash and Eye/Face wash units
      - Weekly Flush Test (conducted at user level)
        - 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 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.
        - Sanitize water supply through weekly flushing. Flush the unit to 3 minutes to relieve the unit of any rust and other pipe build-up.
        - Document test on provided log sheets by entering initials and dates of test. Be sure weekly test logs are easily accessible.
      - Annual Flow Test (conducted by Occupational Safety)
        - Ensure appropriate tag is on all units.
        - 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.



- 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.
- 2) Emergency Showers (Annual Flush Test conducted by Occupational Safety)
- Ensure appropriate tag is on unit.
  - 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.
  - Inspect each shower for compliance with ANSI Z358.1 requirements.
  - Ensure that the unit is free of any obstructions.
  - Activate unit. Ensure that the water flow is continuous and 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. Flush the unit until the water runs clear to relieve the unit of any rust and other pipe build-up.
  - Document test with dates and initials on unit tag.
5. Reporting Requirements. Emergency eyewash and shower testing logs must be maintained by each unit and kept at a central location for a period of three years.