



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
University Health and Safety

**Eyewash and Emergency Shower Program**

**Effective Date:** January 2018, revision November 2019

I. **PURPOSE**

To protect employees and others from corrosive or injurious chemicals. To help establish location, performance, use and testing requirements for emergency eyewash and showers.

II. **SCOPE**

This program covers all employees and work areas where employees have potential for exposure to corrosive or other chemicals injurious to the eyes.

III. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Employee Responsibilities**

- Flush eyes with an emergency eyewash for a minimum of 15 minutes if eye contamination occurs.
- Remove contaminated clothing and use an emergency shower for a minimum of 15 minutes, bag the clothing and dispose of properly if skin contamination occurs.
- Immediately report any problems associated with eyewashes or showers to your Supervisor or Facilities

**Supervisor Responsibilities**

- Ensure emergency eyewash and showers are installed in locations where they can be reached within 10 seconds, with unobstructed access and on the same floor, wherever conditions in the in the following table exist. A maintenance request should be submitted to have an emergency eyewash and/or shower installed:

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Required Equipment</b>
Corrosive materials with a pH < 2 or pH > 11	Eyewash
Corrosive materials with a pH < 1 or pH > 12	Eyewash and shower
Formaldehyde concentration > 0.1%	Eyewash
Formaldehyde concentration > 1.0%	Eyewash and shower
Battery charging station where electrolyte or water is added to battery cells	Eyewash and shower
<i>Note: There may be instances where deviation from the emergency shower requirement is acceptable (e.g., situations where corrosive chemicals or formaldehyde are present in such low quantities as to not present a splash risk). If you are unsure as to the applicability of the emergency shower requirement, contact UHS Safety to make a determination of applicability.</i>	

- Ensure eyewashes are clearly marked.
- Ensure eyewash nozzles are covered when not in use.
- Ensure all eyewash stations are flushed weekly. Eyewash stations with drains must be flushed for at least three minutes. Eyewash stations without plumbed drains must be flushed until a minimum two gallons of water is obtained.
- Eyewash stations must have tepid water that is > 60 <100 F
- Ensure documentation of the weekly eyewash flushing is readily available in the work area. Documentation shall be maintained by the work unit, using the eyewash flush record document or equivalent.
- Ensure eyewashes and showers remain free of obstructions, 36 inches from their location.
- Ensure problems associated with eyewashes or showers are immediately reported to Facilities
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### **Departmental Responsibilities**

- Assist work areas with questions related to emergency eyewash and showers.
- Revise policy as necessary to maintain compliance with applicable standards.

### **Facilities Management**

- Ensure eyewash and shower repairs are made in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Ensure eyewash stations and emergency showers are clearly marked as specified
- Flush and test emergency showers at least every six months and document the flushing.

### **Capital Project Management / University Construction**

- Ensure eyewash and emergency showers are installed and commissioned in accordance with ANSI Z358.1-2014, Emergency Eyewash and Shower criteria, where applicable. In laboratory areas, installation of emergency showers should adhere to
- Complete and maintain Eyewash and Emergency Shower Location.

### **REFERENCES**

1. ANSI Z358.1 - Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment
2. OSHA 1910.151 - Medical services and first aid