



Introduction

This Safety Instruction outlines the requirements for the maintenance and use of Emergency Eyewash and Safety Shower units.

- **Emergency Eyewash units** are required in all areas where employees handle substances that are potentially injurious when in contact with the eyes, including areas where corrosive materials are used.
- **Safety Showers** are needed wherever there is a possibility that either highly corrosive or highly toxic chemicals may splash over **substantial areas of the body**.
- Additional information can be found in the [OR-OSHA Fact Sheets: Eyewash & Safety Showers](#).

How to Use an Eyewash Station

Go Immediately!!

Don't waste a moment.

Time is of the essence.

- Activate the hands free lever
 - Should activate with a single motion
 - Dust covers will pop off
- Get your eyes directly into the stream of water



- If you have contacts, gently remove them while flushing
- Hold your eyes open with your fingers
- Gently roll your eyes to ensure complete flushing
- Flush for up to 15 minutes as necessary

Responsibilities

- Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) will perform *annual* inspections on Eyewashes and Safety Showers.
- Safety Showers will be tested by EH&S due to the need for special equipment to contain the discharge water.
- Departments shall conduct and document *monthly* inspections of Eyewashes within the workspaces they manage.

This includes *ensuring*:

- Monthly inspections are documented and include the date and inspector's name or initials.
- The inspection document is maintained near the Eyewash (EH&S has inspection cards available upon request).
- Maintenance of a container under the drainpipe to collect discharge water when not plumbed to the sewer.
- Unobstructed access.
- The bowl and spouts are clean and free of trash.
- Protective eyewash covers are properly positioned, clean, and intact.
- Protective eyewash covers come off when activated.
- Water flows from both eyepieces and that the streams of water meet.
- Water flow continues until the paddle is moved to its resting position.
- Water drains from the bowl.
- Maintenance problems are promptly reported to [Facilities Services](#).

Contact EHS:

www.ehs.oregonstate.edu
ehs@oregonstate.edu
541 • 737 • 2273

Eyewash Activation / Testing



It is necessary to regularly activate eyewash units to clear any potential debris or bacteria from the plumbing. Activating a unit until the water runs clear ensures that water quality and other safety features are maintained. Accordingly, frequent activation (i.e. weekly) is recommended. However, as activating some installations can prove to be difficult, monthly activations are considered sufficient.

Regulatory Standards

Oregon-OSHA and ANSI minimum standards for Eyewash & Safety Showers:

- Must be located within a 10-second, unobstructed walking distance of the affected worker.
 - Trash cans, pallet jacks, boxes, raw materials, and other stored items are considered obstructions.
 - A door is considered an obstruction *unless* the hazard is non-corrosive. Then, 1 door can be present as long as it opens in the same direction of travel as the person requiring the use of the safety equipment.
- Water quantity must be sufficient to sustain a flow for at least 15 minutes.
- Installation shall be according to the manufacturer's instructions, in a well-lit area, and identified with a highly visible sign.
- Must have a stay-open valve to allow for hands-free operation.
- Testing, water pressure, and flow rate to follow manufacturer's criteria.
- Clean, sanitary and operating correctly.
- Eyewash and safety showers must be protected from freezing during cold weather.
- For self-contained eye-wash systems: **do not use solutions** past their expiration date.



Training

Supervisors (i.e. PIs, Lab and Shop Managers) are responsible for initial and annual refresher training of all their workers in the location and proper use of Eyewashes & Safety Showers. This training must be documented as part of their Lab-Specific Chemical Hygiene Plan. This Safety Instruction may be used for training purposes in addition to the manufacturer's instructions.

A Few OSU Examples



