



SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Eye Wash and Safety Shower Inspection Program

Department of Environmental Health & Safety
June 2021 Version 2

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RECORD OF REVISIONS

Version	By	Date	Description of Revision
1	RL/CG	June 2020	Initial version
2	CG	June 2021	Updated section 3 to clarify requirements for access and identification of equipment.

Legend:

RL: Ruth LeBlanc, Dir. Dept of Environmental Health & Safety

CG: Christy Gorman, Safety Program Manager

DEFINITIONS

Activation of Eye Wash/Safety Shower: the periodic qualitative testing of water flow from said equipment consistent with this program document

Eye Wash: An emergency eye wash is a piece of equipment designed to drench or flush the eyes with water when dust, irritants, or chemicals have entered one or both eyes.

Safety Shower: A safety shower is a piece of equipment designed to wash any chemicals that may have come into contact with the skin or clothing during a chemical spill.

Self-Contained: A term used to describe a stand-alone (not plumbed device containing flushing fluid.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is the goal of Sonoma State University (SSU) to provide and maintain Emergency Eye Wash and Safety Shower facilities where, during routine operations or foreseeable emergencies, the eyes or body of a student or employee may come into contact with a substance which can cause corrosion, severe irritation or permanent tissue damage or which is toxic by absorption.

1.1 Purpose

It is the purpose of this document to provide guidance and methods for providing and maintaining Emergency Eye Wash and Safety Showers at SSU in accordance with the above stated policy.

1.2 Scope

This document shall apply to all Eye Wash and Safety Shower locations on SSU campus and property.

1.3 Reference

- California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5162 Emergency Eyewash and Shower
- ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2014 American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment

2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Management (Deans and above)

Upper management shall be responsible to ensure that this program is implemented and being followed. Further, management shall receive audit results and, as necessary, take corrective action to ensure compliance with this program.

2.2 Department of Environmental Health and Safety

- Maintain this Eye wash and Safety Shower program
- Maintain an inventory of Safety Shower and Eye wash stations on campus and SSU property
- Provide resources, training, and consultation on all matters relating to this program.
- Conduct periodic audits of Eye wash & Safety shower inspection records and the performance relating to this program and provide results of audit to Upper Management

2.3 Facilities Management

- Provide routine maintenance consistent with cited regulatory standards and manufacturers recommendations
- Provide timely repairs as requested by departments or department's designee
- Conduct periodic inspections of Eye Wash and Safety shower stations consistent with this program
- Maintain records of all inspections including dates of completion
- Complete inspection log(s) attached to the Eyewash and Safety Shower stations upon each inspection

2.4 Department Technicians

- Ensure proper operations of Eye wash and Safety Shower stations by reporting deficient, or poor performing units to Facilities Management for repair

3.0 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Activation

3.1.1 Activation of Eyewash Stations

- Plumbed eye wash stations shall be activated on a monthly basis (see test procedures in Appendix A).
- Free standing, reservoir type eye wash stations shall be inspected and serviced according to manufacturer's specification.
- Proof of this activation/inspection will be the inspection log attached to the eye wash station. The date and initials of the inspector shall be recorded on the log.

3.1.2 Activation of Safety Showers

- Safety showers are to be activated on a monthly basis (see test procedures in Appendix A).
- Proof of this activation will be the inspection log attached to the eye wash station. The date and initials of the inspector shall be recorded on the log.

3.2 Accessibility and Identification

3.2.1 Accessibility of Eyewash Stations and Safety Showers

- Eyewash Stations and Safety Showers shall be in accessible locations that require no more than 10 seconds to reach.
- Eyewash Stations and Safety Showers shall be located on the same level as the hazard and the path of travel shall be free of obstructions that may inhibit its immediate use.

3.2.2 Eyewash Station and Safety Shower Identification

- Eyewash Stations and Safety Showers shall be located in an area identified with a highly visible sign positioned so that the sign shall be visible within the area served by the equipment.
- The area around the Eyewash Stations and Safety Showers shall be well lit.

4.0 TRAINING

Training on the activation, flow rate testing, and the inspection log of the safety shower and eye wash stations shall be conducted by Facilities Management and/or EH&S.

5.0 RECORDKEEPING

The record of Safety Shower and/or Eye Wash activation (per Specific Requirements above) shall be kept on the inspection log attached to the device. This record shall be kept by Facilities Management.

Appendix A: Test Procedures

Monthly Eyewash Flushing and Testing

To ensure eyewash stations properly function with clean water in the event of an emergency, plumbed eyewash stations in laboratories, shops, etc must be activated monthly.

Regulation (ANSI Z358.1-2014 Standard, section 5.5.2 and 6.5.2): Plumbed units should be activated long enough on a monthly basis to be sure flushing fluid is provided.

NOTE: Self-contained (not plumbed) eye washes are to be inspected/activated according to manufacturer's instructions (ANSI Z358.1-2014 Standard, section 5.5.3 and 6.5.3)

When performing a monthly eyewash flush, check the following:

- ✓ **Caps in place:** Outlets shall be protected from airborne contaminants
- ✓ **Access and signage:** Ensure that the eyewash station is easily identifiable and unobstructed. Carts, chairs, glassware and equipment can all obstruct an eyewash station, which may slow the response in the event of an emergency
- ✓ **Operation:** Ensure that the eyewash station activates easily with one-handed control; the flow removes eyepiece covers on an eyewash, and water flows evenly and in a steady stream on either device.
- ✓ **Water:** Allow the eyewash station to run for approx. 60 seconds to flush stagnant water from the line. If this is your first time flushing the station, you may have to run it longer to ensure that the water is clean.
- ✓ **Record:** Record your initials and date of test on the inspection tag hanging from station and in the departmental Eye wash and Safety Shower Inspection log.

Malfunctioning eyewash stations shall be reported to Facilities Management via work order.

Helpful hints:

- Turn on the eyewash slowly. To avoid a puddle underneath the eyewash, open slowly, then push on all the way.
- Have a roll of paper towels on hand in case of water leakage.



Monthly Safety Shower Flushing and Testing

Emergency shower units are required in research and instructional areas where personnel may come into contact with hazardous materials. *All showers must be activated monthly to test mechanical function and flow and purged to remove particulate matter from the water line.*

Safety Showers testing procedure:

1. Ensure shower is clear of obstructions and easily visible from all directions. 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).
2. When flushing the safety showers, use a 5-gallon bucket or large trash can on wheels and shower water catcher. Note that:
 - The ON/OFF valves must be operational, activated by a single motion
 - Running water should be clear- this may take a few seconds.
3. Testing the safety shower:
 - Place safety shower net over the entire face of the shower unit
4. Record the flushing date and your initials on the inspection tag hanging from shower and in the departmental Eye wash and Safety Shower Inspection log.
 - Record notes on cleanliness, and ability to access shower in the log.

If there are issues with access to the shower, contact and notify the P.I. or technical staff member associated with the lab immediately.

If there is flow or operational deficiencies in the safety shower, notify the Facilities Management immediately at 664-2317.

