



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 419: Emergency Eyewash & Showers

Introduction: Where employees handle hazardous substances that could injure their eyes or get onto their bodies, eyewash stations or showers (or both) must be provided based on the hazard. An eyewash or safety shower is considered a first aid measure rather than a preventative one. A hazard assessment will determine the hazards associated with a chemical and which first-aid measures are to be used in the event of an emergency. Following are guidelines for eyewash stations and drench showers:

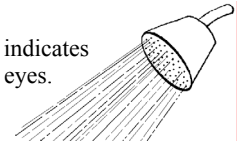
Factors to be evaluated in a hazard assessment:

- **Chemical properties** - The physical state, concentration, pH (acids with a pH less than 2.5 and alkalis with a pH greater than 11.0 require immediate flushing to prevent damage), temperature, etc.
- **Chemical-use patterns** - How employees work with chemicals during handling, transfer, use, or disposal, including frequency and duration of use, and quantity of chemicals.
- **Training** - Evaluate training requirements based on hazard communication, material safety data sheets, and the measures employees can take to protect themselves, including personal protective equipment. Employees must be trained on the hazards associated with the material, the location of the eyewash and/or shower facilities, and the proper procedure for flushing the eyes and/or skin.
- **Work-site conditions** - Indoor or outdoor sites, protection from freezing conditions, fixed or non-fixed locations, and facility layout.
- **Equipment** - Availability of eyewash and body- flush equipment and water sources. Plumbed units are preferred where a clean water source is readily available. Self-contained units are effective where a water source is not readily available. Both must meet the general requirements.



Requirements for equipment:

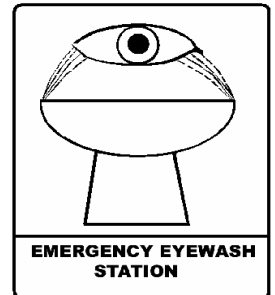
- **Eyewashes** - Units must be provided in fixed work areas or stations when a hazard assessment or any other information indicates that an employee may reasonably be exposed to a substance that can cause corrosion or permanent tissue damage to the eyes.
- **Safety showers** - A shower is required at fixed work areas or stations when substantial areas of the worker's body may be exposed to large quantities of materials that are highly corrosive or highly toxic by skin absorption.
- **Hand-held drench hoses** - A single-headed emergency washing device connected to flexible hoses and used to irrigate and flush the face or other parts of the body.
- **Solution/squeeze bottles** - Chemical or isotonic solutions used as substitutes for water must be appropriate for the hazard, properly tested and maintained and replaced prior to the expiration date. They cannot be used as a sole means of protection nor a substitute for plumbed or self-contained equipment.



NOTE: If the chemical manufacturer requires specific decontaminates or procedures, you must provide them in addition to the eyewash or shower.

Location of eyewash and/or shower - Generally, the distance from the worker's location to the device should not exceed 10 seconds walking distance. The determinant factor is immediate eye irrigation within 10 seconds. The path must be unobstructed and cannot require opening doors or passing through obstacles unless other employees are always present to help the exposed employee. Where gases or highly volatile substances (e.g. anhydrous ammonia) are present, locating the eyewash or shower outside the immediate source of exposure may be necessary.

Identifying the Units - The eyewash and safety shower facilities should be identified with a highly visible sign. The area around the facility should be well-lighted and highly visible.



Emergency eyewash and shower use:

- **Flush eye(s)** with water for at least fifteen minutes. The eyes must be forcibly held open to wash, and the eyeballs must be rotated so all surface area is rinsed. The use of an eye wash fountain is desirable so hands are free to hold the eyes open. Remove contact lenses while rinsing. Do not attempt to rinse and reinsert contact lenses.
- **To use drench showers**, contaminated clothing must be removed immediately and the skin flushed with water for no less than fifteen minutes. Clothing must be laundered before reuse.
- **Seek medical attention** regardless of the severity or apparent lack of severity. Explain carefully what chemicals were involved. Review the MSDS to determine if any delayed effects are expected.

Conclusion: An emergency eyewash station or shower can prevent accidents from becoming serious injuries, or minimize injuries resulting from a chemical accident. Eyewash or shower stations must be clean, sanitary, and operating correctly; expired solutions must not be used in self-contained systems.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.