

Employee Instructions

Introduction

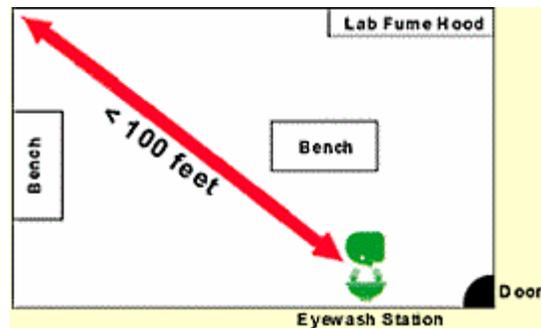
Safety showers and eyewash stations are critical to minimizing the effects of accidental exposure to hazardous materials. In each shop, safety showers and eyewash stations must be immediately accessible and properly maintained.

It is important that employees are able to quickly respond and effectively use safety showers and eyewash stations.

Importance of Equipment

Because the timely and effective use of safety showers and eyewash stations can significantly reduce the effects of hazards, it is important that all employees know the locations of safety showers and eyewash stations in their work areas. This equipment is often located on normal access and egress routes and close to the hazard as possible, but away from other potential electrical and water reactive hazards. As a rule, safety showers and eyewash stations are to be located within a maximum travel distance of 100 feet so that employees can reach them in no more than 10 seconds, taking into account they may be unable to see clearly. Areas where highly corrosive chemicals are used or stored should have eye washes and showers within 10 to 20 feet from the hazard. The sooner chemicals are diluted from the eyes and skin the less damage will occur.

To ensure quick access to safety showers and eyewash stations, you should ensure the access route to the nearest safety shower and eyewash station is clear and unobstructed and is not on the other side of a door. Locations of safety showers and eyewash stations must also be identified by a highly visible sign in a well-lighted area. Workplace safety is the responsibility of each individual. Therefore, you should offer input to your supervisor or safety specialists.



Types of Equipment

There are several types of safety showers and eyewash stations that may be installed for use your work area. There are:

- Portable Personal Eyewash bottles
- Self-contained Eyewash or Shower
- Hand-held Drench Hose
- Plumbed Eyewash
- Plumbed Shower
- Combination Unit



You need to have confidence that the correct type of shower/eyewash station was selected for your area. Hill AFB has an Emergency Shower and Eyewash Evaluation/Justification Team that looks at and evaluates emergency shower and eyewash stations. Determination of the type of emergency shower and eyewash station is based on the type of chemicals exposed to, exposure potential and areas of the body that are exposed to chemical hazards. You should see the following sticker on each emergency shower/eyewash station.

This stick is proof that the needs of the area have been properly evaluated and the right emergency shower/eyewash station has been selected.

	<i>Eyewash Evaluation/Verification</i>
_____	_____
<i>Evaluator</i>	<i>Date</i>

As an employee you need to take responsibility for the emergency showers and eyewashes that they are properly inspected and maintained. You should check the following:

- Clear access is maintained
- Weekly activation takes place. Water is ran until clear
- Portable units are properly maintained. Water must be replaced as directed. In some cases periodic additives must be added. Portable units may have an expiration date. Units should be taken out of service once expired.
- Ensure you are trained on the proper use of the station.

Operation of Equipment

It is important that employees understand how to correctly operate emergency showers/eyewash stations. In general, safety showers and eyewash stations are designed to provide ample amounts of low-pressure, potable water. The low-pressure of the water ensures that the employee is not injured during treatment. In addition, most models feature control valves designed to activate in one second or less and remain on until intentionally shut off.

The following actions should be taken to operate a safety shower in the event of a chemical splash to the skin or clothing:

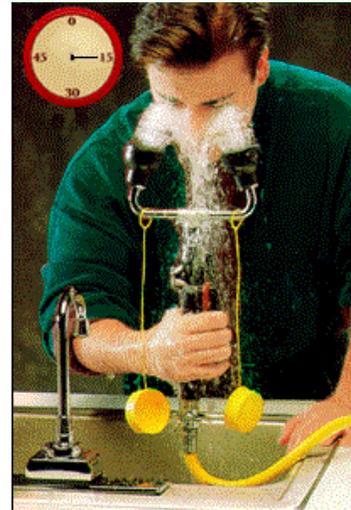
1. Alert co-workers of the chemical splash.
2. Move quickly to the nearest safety shower.
3. Stand under the shower head.
4. Pull the chain/cord to activate the shower.
5. While under the flow of water, remove contaminated clothing to reduce or eliminate contact with the chemical. If the safety shower is equipped with a modesty curtain, it may be pulled closed.
6. Remain under the safety shower for a minimum of 15 minutes
7. Wrap up in a blanket to protect against shock or freezing conditions and to provide privacy
8. Seek immediate medical help. Going to obtain medical help when first splashed is not advisable because the chemical has time to damage the eyes or skin. Dilution of the chemical within 15 seconds from time of exposure is critical.



Operation of Eyewash Station

The following actions should be taken to operate safety showers and eyewash stations in the event of a chemical splash to the eyes.

1. Alert co-workers to the chemical splash.
2. Move quickly to the nearest eyewash station.
3. Lean over the eyewash station.
4. Push the lever to activate the eyewash.
5. Hold eyelids open and direct the flow of water into the eyes.
6. Continue flushing the eyes for a minimum of 15 minutes.
7. Seek immediate medical help. . Going to obtain medical help when first splashed is not advisable because the chemical has time to damage the eyes or skin.



Important points to remember:

- Employees who have been splashed with chemicals may panic and need your assistance to find the safety shower or eyewash station
- Employees may also be in shock and need help washing. Assistance needs to be provided, but helpers need to wash themselves thoroughly as well.

Portable Units

Portable units (self-contained units) provide a minimum of 15 minutes continuous flow.

- Must be protected from freezing temperatures
- Must have instructions and expiration date affixed to unit
- Usually activated by pulling the strap that holds the covers on the unit.
- Must have evaluation sticker



Eyewash bottles

Eyewash bottles can offer immediate flushing to the eyes.

- Not a substitute for other emergency eyewash requirements
- Must be protected from freezing
- Must have an instruction and expiration date.
- Must have a water change date
- Must have an evaluation sticker
- Of value only if very close to exposure



Inspection and Maintenance

Safety showers and eyewash stations must be inspected on a regular basis. AFOSH 91-501 requires weekly activation and month inspection. Either your supervisor or someone he/she appoints will perform the inspections. The weekly activation is a requirement of ANSI Z358.1-1998. The purpose is to flush the lines and observe proper pressurization levels.

Inspections

- Weekly Activation of permanently-installed shower and eyewash units. Ensure surrounding area is clean and unobstructed and eyewash is properly identified. Sign off weekly inspection record. Run water long enough to ensure:
 - Water pressure and volume is sufficient
 - Orifices free of obstruction
 - No build-up of scale or rust
- Monthly Inspection
 - Weekly testing completed
 - Clean, no damage or missing parts
 - Proper signs/identification
 - No visible signs of leakage
 - Valve moves smoothly and freely to open position
 - Spray pattern 20 inches at a height of 60 inches above floor
 - Water pressure and volume adequate
 - Orifices free of obstruction
 - Employees in area properly trained in operation of unit
 - Instructions and expiration date on self contained units and eyewash bottles.
 - Current water change date on portable unit

Inspection Documentation

- Use the Hill AFB Emergency Shower/Eyewash Inspection record
 - Inspection criteria for weekly activation/inspection and monthly inspection
 - Units that require another inspection record such as the 244 card should place the Hill AFB Emergency Shower/Eyewash Inspection with the other inspection record so the inspection criteria are clearly identified.

