

Emergency Eyewash Fact Sheet

The first 10 to 15 seconds after exposure to a hazardous substance, especially a corrosive substance, are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may cause serious injury. Eyewash stations provide on-the-spot decontamination. OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.151 (c) states: Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use. Information provided in this fact sheet is based on Recommendations by the American National Institute (ANSI)

Location

- Eye-wash stations should be installed in areas where corrosive chemicals are being used and there is a risk of splash to the eyes or face.
- Eyewashes should be located in areas that are accessible within 10 seconds (roughly 55 feet) of the hazard.
- There should be no doors or steps in the path from the hazard exposure risk area to the eyewash equipment

Installation Recommendations

- Eyewashes should be installed in a well-lit area.
- Spray heads should be installed between 33" and 45"
- Spray heads should be positioned at least 6" inches from the wall
- Eyewash stations once activated should be capable of staying activated hands free

Maintenance

- Eyewash stations should be activated monthly to ensure adequate water flow is available and to remove stagnant water and debris
- Visual inspections should be conducted regularly ensuring:
 - Dust covers and caps are in place
 - Spray heads are clean and no signs of residue
 - No items placed in front of or blocking access to eyewash station

How to Use if Exposure Occurs

- If eyes or face are exposed to corrosive chemicals immediately go flush eyes or face at eyewash station
- If you are wearing contacts remove contacts prior to flushing eyes
- After activating eyewash hold eyes over flushing water while using your fingers to hold your eyelids open
- Flush for a minimum of 15 minutes
- For all exposures, have a second person call the emergency numbers while immediate actions are being taken.
- Seek medical attention.

Additional Information

- Activation of eyewash should take no longer than 1 second
- Water temperature should be tepid (60-100 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Monthly activations should be documented
- Bottled Eyewash or other Personal Wash Units such as single head Drench Hoses are considered to be supplemental equipment only. These types of flushing units do not meet minimum requirements.

Emergency Contacts

Dial 911 (campus phone)

704-687-2200 (external phone)