PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EYE WASH STATION AND SAFETY SHOWER SAFETY PROGRAM
REGULATORY STANDARD: OSHA - 29 CFR 1910.151

INTRODUCTION: Although it may be a good idea in any workplace, the presence of an eye wash station is especially important in an environment where hazardous chemicals are in use. An eyewash station must be installed in an accessible place whenever corrosive materials are present.

TRAINING:
• All employees and supervisors who are exposed to, work with or near corrosive or injurious materials must be trained on the use of eye wash stations and safety showers to ensure the features and operations of the unit are fully understood in the event of an emergency.

ACTIVITIES:
• Assess area hazards to determine where eye wash stations and safety showers are required
• Install eye wash stations and safety showers, as required
• Ensure appropriate signs are placed to indicate the location of eye wash stations and safety showers, and operating instructions are placed at the units
• Conduct inspections of installed safety equipment

FORMS:
• Activation and Inspection Eye Wash Station Form
• Activation and Inspection Safety Shower Form
• Program Assessment Eye Wash Station and Safety Shower
• Training and Attendance Roster Eye Wash and/or Safety Shower

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1. **Purpose.** The company requires that emergency shower and/or eye wash station facilities shall be provided whenever operations may result in personnel coming into contact with injurious corrosive materials. This program provides requirements for the use and maintenance of emergency showers and eye wash stations.

2. **Scope.** Applies to all eye wash station and safety shower units and installations at the company or on company job site locations.

3. **Responsibilities.**

   3.1 Managers and Supervisors:

   3.1.1 Assess area hazards to determine where eye wash stations and safety showers are required to be installed.

   3.1.2 Install eye wash stations and safety showers.

   3.1.3 Ensure appropriate signs are placed to indicate the location of eye wash stations and safety showers, and operating instructions are placed at the units.

   3.1.4 Ensure employees who work with injurious or corrosive materials are trained in the use of eye wash stations and safety showers.

   3.1.5 Provide the resources for and manpower required for maintenance and testing of eye wash stations and safety showers.

   3.2 Employees:

   3.2.1 Attend training upon initial assignment and as workplace changes occur, as appropriate.

   3.2.2 Assist, as needed or required, in the installation, maintenance or testing of eye wash stations and safety showers.

   3.2.3 Notify supervision of any problems or deficiencies noted during eye wash station or safety shower inspection, maintenance or testing.

   3.3 Safety Officer (as needed or required):

   3.3.1 Assist in the hazard assessment of the facility and the needs or requirements for eye wash stations and safety showers.

   3.3.2 Assist in the installation, maintenance or testing of eye wash stations and safety showers.

   3.3.3 Assist in employee training in the use of eye wash stations and safety showers.
4. Procedure.

4.1 Hazard Assessment:

4.1.1 Conduct Hazard Assessments to identify injurious or corrosive materials in the work area and to determine the need for eye wash stations and/or emergency showers. Material Safety Data sheets may assist in this identification process.

4.1.2 Conduct Hazard Assessments whenever work process changes or building renovation/occupancy affect the operation or requirements of emergency eye wash stations and showers.

4.1.3 Document this assessment, as needed, on the Certificate of Hazard Assessment.

4.2 Installation and Maintenance:

4.2.1 Ensure that emergency eye wash station and/or emergency showers are initially installed to meet the manufacturer's specifications and are tested and maintained in good operating condition whenever hazard assessments indicated the need for this equipment. Manufacturing installation instructions normally accompany the unit.

4.2.2 Existing single nozzle designed eyewash installations requiring maintenance or repair shall be replaced with an approved dual nozzle design. Any new eyewash installation shall be of an approved dual nozzle design.

4.2.3 Out-of-service units shall be tagged and all personnel in the area informed; before removing tag and returning the unit into service, a performance test shall be conducted to ensure proper operation.

4.2.4 Potable water is preferred, but non-potable water is acceptable provided it is clean and that appropriate signs are posted.

4.2.5 Where possible, water should be kept at tepid temperature (65°F - 95°F).

4.2.6 Distance from the hazard must be not more than a 10 second walking distance (approximately 100 feet).

4.2.7 Drainage should be provided for shower units to prevent additional hazardous situations from occurring.

4.3 Recordkeeping:

4.3.1 Document the activation of emergency eye wash station and/or emergency shower equipment. A log book attached or near the equipment, or a sticker affixed to the unit will suffice.

4.3.2 Document the employee training.
4.4 Activation and Testing:

4.4.1 Testing should be performed upon initial installation and this documentation should remain with the unit (via log book or sticker).

4.4.2 Showers with monitored or supervised systems (or other performance verification equivalent) on the line to assure water pressure or flow (such as pressure monitors or flow gauges) require activation and testing on initial installation and activation at least annually thereafter. (NOTE: If eye wash station or shower is connected to a controlled alarm system, notification prior to activation/testing shall be made to the site or designated unit responsible for receiving the alarm to prevent summoning emergency response units).

4.4.3 Showers with no monitoring system require activation at least annually (however, monthly is recommended depending upon the potential hazards encountered in the area), and annual testing.

4.4.4 Eye wash stations, Eye/Face units for plumbed units, must be activated weekly; Self-contained units will be activated per manufacturer's instructions.

4.4.4.1 As part of the activation procedure, check for sharp projections and contamination on the nozzle area; activation should flow water 3 to 6 inches from the nozzle.

NOTE: The use of Drench hoses and Personal eyewash equipment (eyewash bottles) supports plumbed and self-contained equipment, but these SHALL NOT be used as a replacement for them. If they are used, employees shall be properly instructed on their use and limitations.

4.5 Housekeeping:

4.5.1 Emergency eye wash station and/or emergency shower equipment must retain a clear path to the equipment. Supervision should be notified of obstructed paths.

4.5.2 Equipment must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Eye wash station caps or covers may be used, provided they meet regulatory requirements and are removed by the water pressure of the unit upon activation.

4.6 Notification:

4.6.1 Emergency response personnel and supervision should be immediately notified of any emergency eye wash station and/or emergency shower equipment activation, other than testing.
5. **Safety Information.** This information is applicable to standard equipment. *Where applicable to the workplace, there are additional requirements to be met for barrier free equipment with reference to the Americans with Disability Act and access to equipment for handicapped individuals.*

5.1 Valve Actuators.

5.1.1 For all equipment:

5.1.1.1 Shall be large enough to be easily located by the user, with a highly visible sign, and in a well lighted area (Darkrooms and Dark areas are an exception to this requirement).

5.1.1.2 Shall activate in 1 second or less.

5.1.1.3 Once activated shall remain on until intentionally shut off without requiring the use of the operators hands.

5.1.1.4 Shall be protected from freezing.

5.1.1.5 Shall be protected, as much as possible, from airborne or other contaminants without impeding the use of the equipment or requiring a separate motion to remove.

5.1.1.6 Shall have instructions posted to assist users.

5.1.1.7 Shall be free of projections or sharp objects which may be injurious to the user.

5.1.1.8 Shall be constructed of materials that will not corrode in the presence of flushing fluid.

5.1.2 Showers:

5.1.2.1 The activation handle shall not be located more than 69" from the surface on which the user stands. An extension device should be constructed to accommodate activation of the shower for persons with disabilities or persons in wheelchairs.

5.2 Spray.

5.2.1 For all equipment:

5.2.1.1 Whenever practical, equipment should deliver tepid or tempered water. Temperature of the flushing fluid should not exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius).

5.2.1.2 In circumstances where chemical reaction is accelerated by flushing fluid temperature, a medical advisor should be consulted for the optimum temperature for each application.
5.2.1.3 While cold flushing fluid temperatures provide immediate cooling after chemical contact, prolonged exposure to cold fluids may affect the ability to maintain adequate body temperature and can result in the premature cessation of the equipment usage.

5.2.2 Showers:

5.2.2.1 Deliver a spray pattern of 20 inches in diameter at 60 inches from the surface on which the user stands.

5.2.2.2 Located at least 16 inches from any obstruction.

5.2.2.3 Fluid must be substantially dispersed throughout the pattern.

5.2.2.4 Delivers 20 gallons per minute for a minimum of 15 minutes.

5.2.3 Eye wash stations:

5.2.3.1 Delivers a spray pattern of 4” across (3-6” away from each nozzle).

5.2.3.2 Fluid must be substantially dispersed throughout the pattern.

5.2.3.3 Delivers 0.4 gallons per minute for a minimum of 15 minutes.

5.2.4 Eye/Face units:

5.2.4.1 Delivers a spray pattern of 4” in length.

5.2.4.2 Fluid must be substantially dispersed throughout the pattern.

5.2.4.3 Delivers 3 gallons per minute for a minimum of 15 minutes.

5.3 Delivery System.

5.3.1 For all equipment:

5.3.1.1 Constructed of materials that will not corrode in the presence of flushing fluid.

5.3.1.2 Designed so as not to be injurious to the user.

5.3.1.3 Shall have no sharp projections or objects.

5.3.1.4 Shall be protected from contamination.

5.3.1.5 Shall be protected from freezing.

5.3.1.6 The water supply must be continuous and uninterruptible for the required duration.
5.3.2 Showers:

5.3.2.1 At least 1 inch pipe to deliver flow, supply lines may be 1.25 inch line.

5.3.2.2 Shower Assembly shall be 82-96 inches in height from the surface on which the user stands.

5.3.2.3 Enclosures, if used, will have a minimum of 34 inches in diameter.

5.3.2.4 Shall have supply lines which deliver 30 lbs. per-square-inch of pressure at maximum flow.

5.3.3 Eye wash stations:

5.3.3.1 Designed to provide enough room to allow the eyelids to be held open with hands.

5.3.3.2 Provide fluid to both eyes simultaneously.

5.3.3.3 New installations or modifications shall have 2 sets of parallel lines painted or adhered to back surface of eyewash. These lines will be set 1.25 inches and 3.25 inches apart from the center of the eyewash and are designed to assist the user in guiding the eyes into the stream. The unit should deliver the flushing fluid between these lines.

5.3.3.4 Shall have supply lines which deliver a minimum pressure of 30 psi and a maximum pressure of 90 psi at maximum flow.

5.3.3.5 Shall be 33-45 inches from the surface on which the user stands and shall be at least 6 inches from the wall or other obstruction.

5.3.4 Eye/face units:

5.3.4.1 Designed to provide enough room to allow the eyelids to be held open with hands.

5.3.4.2 Shall be 33-45 inches from the surface on which the user stands and shall be at least 6 inches from the wall or other obstruction.

5.3.4.3 Shall have supply lines which deliver a minimum pressure of 30 psi and a maximum of 90 psi at maximum flow.

5.4 Location.

5.4.1 For all equipment:

5.4.1.1 Not more than a 10 second unobstructed walking distance from the hazard (approximately 100 feet in a straight line).
5.4.2 Showers:

5.4.2.1 16 inches from any obstruction or wall (minimum).

5.4.3 Eye wash stations:

5.4.3.1 If a highly hazardous or corrosive material is used, the eye wash station should be in the direct vicinity of the hazard to facilitate immediate use.

5.5 Floor Markings.

5.5.1 Are RECOMMENDED - Should be clearly marked with yellow, as shown:

5.6 Additional Information.

5.6.1 Users of emergency eye wash stations should hold eye(s) open and roll eyeballs to apply flushing fluid to all parts of the eye and under the eyelids.

5.6.2 Combination units should comply with all of the above requirements and each piece (shower, eye wash station, and eye/face) should operate simultaneously.

5.6.3 Personal Eyewash Bottles and Drench hoses are designed to supplement the use of Emergency Eye wash stations and Showers and are not designed to replace them.

6. Training Information and Requirements.

6.1 All employees who are exposed to, work with or work in proximity to injurious or corrosive materials shall be trained in the use of emergency eye wash stations and showers as follows:

6.1.1 Location of the equipment.

6.1.2 Hazardous conditions which require the equipment use.

6.1.3 Operation of equipment.

6.1.4 Providing emergency assistance to others.
6.1.5 Employees should be aware not to store materials or product in front of, near or in the pathway to equipment or to cover floor markings.

7. Definitions.

- **Activation** - Activation consists of turning the unit on to assure water flow (to flush the line).
- **gpm** - Gallons Per Minute.
- **Monitored or Supervised System** - A water or flow line with alarm systems or flow gauges which will notify some authority when flow is decreased or interrupted.
- **Testing** - Testing consists of turning the unit on, checking flow rate, flow pattern, spread, assuring components of the equipment are operating properly, and verifying that all signs, labels or markings are legible, visible and appropriate.