# **Eye Washes & Safety Showers**

Mindfulness Minute: Considering the use and maintenance of emergency equipment can help you be prepared to quickly respond to emergencies and plan work to avoid emergencies.

Eyewashes and safety showers must be present in labs with corrosive chemicals and BSL-2 work and are found in and outside of most labs on campus. Eyewashes and safety showers can save your vision and even your life when they are working properly and when proper emergency response measures are followed. SOPs should include whether an eyewash or safety shower should be used in the event of exposure. Lab-specific training should include the location of eyewashes and safety showers and instructions for use. Be aware of the location of the nearest eyewash or safety shower when working. Be aware that some eyewashes drain out onto the floor and safety showers will spill onto the floor. Don't let the mess discourage you from using safety equipment! Facilities Services can be contacted when the emergency is over to clean up the water in the lab.

#### Using an eyewash

Shout for help. Activate the eyewash all the way on. Rinse your eyes for at least 15 minutes, rolling your eyes to get maximum irrigation. To help resist the natural urge to shut your eyes, use your hands (if they are not contaminated) to hold your eyes open. Call 911 and seek medical assistance. Report to your supervisor.

Eyewash and safety shower demonstration: https://youtu.be/o LZsVoz1OwU

## Using a safety shower

Shout for help. Pull the handle to activate the safety shower. Once under the stream of water, remove clothing and PPE if this will not present additional risk of personal contamination. Rinse for at least 15 minutes. You may need to use an eyewash and a safety shower at the same time. Call 911 and seek medical assistance. Report to your supervisor.

If someone in your lab needs to use the eyewash or safety shower, help them get to the eyewash/safety shower station, activate the devices, rinse their eyes, call 911, and report to their supervisor.

### **Eyewash maintenance**

Eyewashes must be flushed and tested at least once a week to refresh water lines, ensure functionality, and assess water quality. PIs are responsible for ensuring that eyewashes are tested once per week; however, this task can be delegated to another member of the lab. Use a bucket to collect water for eyewashes that drain onto the floor. When testing eyewashes, assess the following:

- 1. Clear access to the eyewash is critical, as vision will likely be impaired in a situation where the eyewash is needed. The eyewash station is not blocked by carts, chairs, glassware, DI water systems, carboys, or equipment.
- 2. The eyewash itself is clean and free of dirt/debris. Ethanol can be used to clean eyepieces. Rinse and flush thoroughly when done.
- 3. Eyewash is able to be activated and stay on with one motion so that both hands can be used to hold open eyes.
- 4. The flow is even to both eyepieces, steady, and sufficient to remove the eyepiece covers without assistance. The eyewash apparatus and plumbing do not have leaks.
- 5. The water should be tepid (not too hot or cold to prevent injury and difficulty keeping eyes open), clean from debris, and clear in color.

	Ject	ion C	I	eck	IISI					
Size to Inspect A Teat:  In the uses sizes the shiften cheer of  In the cense sizes the shiften cheer of  In the censes thou and the of daily debain?  First the rements for go seconds weekly  First the rements for go seconds weekly  First the rements for go seconds weekly  First the other control of the censes  First the other control of the censes  In the form beginning openey's their daypoint are  distincting record; and with sufficient but not too  In the whore the censes and show?						How to obtain assistance: Oysotopo, molecurence, training DMS: 69, year old 1 sh. Montersprinketh. Montersame: reports tass also be called in directly. Facilities Services: 89, year-777. Energy-roises: Date mon upon and thesh for all best 1,5 monter. CALL 5 on all or the medical assistance.				
Date	Initialy.	Communic		Dixte	initials	Consent		Doce	Initialy	Commu
			l				i			
			H							
_			t				i	$\vdash$		
=			H				I			
			H							
			H				I			
			l							
_			ŀ							
$\vdash$			H				i			

tiny.utk.edu/SSEW

Record completion of the weekly flush and test and note any issues on the Emergency Eyewash Station Weekly Inspection Checklist. For any issues related to the eyewash apparatus or plumbing, contact Facilities Services to repair. Communicate to lab and suite members that the eyewash is not functioning correctly and adjust work practices as needed until repairs are made.

#### Safety shower maintenance

Facilities Services tests safety showers once a year and documents this on a log card on the safety shower. If you notice that the safety shower hasn't been tested in a year, contact Facilities Services to test it.