



## September Safety Topic of the Month

### Safety Showers and Eye Washes

#### Applicability

Safety showers are required when working with corrosives or other chemicals that could be injurious to the body. Emergency showers can be used to quickly flush chemicals off the body or extinguish clothing fires. Safety showers need to be readily accessible in an emergency, within 10 seconds of the hazard and on the same level floor with an unobstructed travel path.

Eye washes are required when working with corrosives or other chemicals that could be injurious to the eyes or where particulates could get into the eyes. Eyewash units should be tested every week to prevent build up of bacteria, rust and dirt. See attached photo of what happens to the inside of the eyewash spray heads if you don't test them regularly. (Ewww!)

Drench hoses can be useful where a full safety shower is not warranted. They are good for spot flushing of small chemical spills to the body, and they can also be used as eyewashes particularly models with eyewash spray heads.

#### Use

##### Safety Showers

Stand under shower, activate, remove contaminated clothing (this is no time for modesty) and flush for fifteen minutes (yes this is going to make a huge mess, we don't care, we can always clean up afterwards). While flushing, call for help, have someone call police dispatch at 874-2121.

##### Eye Washes

Activate the eyewash, hold eye open with fingers, flush across the eye for fifteen minutes. While flushing, call for help, have someone call police dispatch at 874-2121.

##### Drench Hoses

Activate, remove contaminated clothing and flush for fifteen minutes. While flushing, call for help, have someone call police dispatch at 874-2121.

#### Discussion Topics

- 1) Review safety shower and eyewash applicability above. Does this lab/shop need a safety shower and/or eyewash? Contact EHS for assistance.
- 2) Is the eyewash unit tested weekly? Is it clean? Are the protective covers in place?
- 3) Review the location of safety showers, eyewash units and drench hoses. Are they easily accessible in an emergency? Are they posted with appropriate signs?
- 4) Conduct a table top drill or exercise

#### References

Guardian ANSI Guide - <http://www.gesafety.com/downloads/ANSIGuide.p>