

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Environmental Health and Safety

Emergency Eyewash and Shower Program

Purpose:

To protect MSUM staff and others from injury caused by hazardous chemicals. To identify locations, operation, and testing requirements for emergency showers and eyewashes.

Policy:

That operable flushing equipment will be accessible in areas where there is the potential for exposure to corrosive materials.

Scope:

This program covers all areas on campus where there is the potential for exposure to hazardous chemicals that could cause irritation or damage to the eyes and skin.

Procedures & Responsibilities:

Affected individuals

- Wear safety goggles while working with hazardous chemicals to prevent eye exposure
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment such as lab coats, gloves, and face shields to minimize the potential for hazardous materials to contact the skin
- If eye contamination occurs, flush eyes with an emergency eyewash for a minimum of 15 minutes holding eyelids apart while slowly rotating eyes. Remove contact lenses
- If skin contamination occurs, remove contaminated clothing while using an emergency shower for a minimum of 15 minutes. Bag the clothing and dispose of properly
- Immediately report any problems associated with eyewashes or showers to your supervisor or EHS
- Becoming familiar with the locations and operation of the nearest emergency eyewash and shower and using as trained

- If using an eyewash bottle for immediate flushing, proceed to a plumbed or self-contained eyewash station and flush for the required rinsing/flushing period
- After emergency eyewash/shower flushing for a minimum of 15 minutes, seek medical attention immediately and complete an incident report

Supervisor

- Ensure emergency eyewash/showers can be reached within 10 seconds without obstruction and on the same level as hazardous material. The more hazardous the material, the closer in time and distance the unit should be
- Ensure eyewashes and showers are clearly marked and clear of obstruction
- Ensure eyewash dust cover caps are on when not in use
- Ensure all eyewash/shower stations are flushed weekly. Weekly testing helps clear the supply lines of sedimentation and minimize microbial contamination that is caused by stagnant water. Eyewash stations with drains must be flushed long enough to replace the water in the unit and piping (about 3 minutes). About two gallons of water should be flushed at shower stations without plumbed drains
- Eyewash/shower stations must have a tepid or lukewarm flushing water temperature (between 60° and 100°F)
- Ensure documentation of the weekly eyewash/shower flushing is readily available in the work area.
- Requesting immediate repair for malfunctioning emergency flushing equipment to EHS or Facilities
- Ensure all students/personnel are made aware of the location of the flushing stations

Environmental Health & Safety Department

- Assist work areas with questions related to emergency eyewashes/showers
- Revise policy as necessary to maintain compliance with applicable standards
- Ensure eyewashes and emergency showers are clearly marked and specified
- Ensure emergency eyewash and shower stations are installed in the appropriate locations
- Making sure flushing/inspection of equipment occurs as outlined
- Providing checklists (upon departmental request) used to record flushing/testing

- Responsible for checking safety showers/eyewashes annually to confirm proper operation and reporting repairs to maintenance staff

Facilities Management

- Responsible for completing repairs when reported
- Ensure eyewash stations and emergency showers are clearly marked and clear of obstruction

References

1. ANSI Z358.1-2014
2. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.151(c)
3. MNOSHA DIRECTIVES STD 1-8.2G

Effective Date: August 2022