



Use and Inspection of Emergency Eyewashes:

An emergency eyewash provides fluid to flush the eyes when they are splashed with chemicals, body fluid, or other contaminants. Know the location of the eyewashes in your work area and learn how they operate. When working in areas where splashing may occur, you must also wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including splash goggles. Access to an eyewash does not eliminate the need to wear PPE.

Using an Eyewash: [Video Link](#) (2 minutes)

1. Activate the eyewash. Notify others that you have been splashed. Don't be afraid to yell.
2. Hold eyelids open using the thumb and index finger; eyelids must be held open to rinse the contaminant out.
3. Flush eyes with water or eyewash fluid for a minimum of 15 minutes, "Roll" the eyes around to ensure full rinsing.
4. Remove contact lenses as soon as possible to ensure that chemicals are not trapped behind the lenses.
5. Contact your Supervisor to obtain medical attention either from the Occupational Injury Clinic or the Emergency Department immediately!

Using Emergency Showers:

1. Stand under shower head, pull lever to start flushing water over affected body parts
2. Remove contaminated clothing
3. Rinse affected body area for at least 15 minutes

Other employees in area can assist affected employee by:

1. Helping the employee get to the eyewash or shower
2. Calling a supervisor, manager or VA Police
3. Getting warm/dry clothing or blankets for affected employee (They will get cold!)
4. Collecting or containing water in the area.
5. Accompanying the employee to Occupational Health or the ED
6. Contacting the Safety Department if there is any spilled chemical

Weekly Flushing of Eyewashes (plumbed):

1. Push or turn handle to activate, nozzle covers should automatically disengage from the nozzle.
2. The water should begin to flow from both nozzles within 1 second with equal pressure.
3. The temperature should be tepid within the first minute.
4. The eyewash should remain active without continuous contact (You should be able to use two hands freely.)
5. The eyewash station should be unobstructed and easily accessed.
6. Document the inspection tag or log with the date and the inspector's initials.

Weekly Inspection of Self-Contained Eyewashes:

1. Verify that the unit contains fluid. (Can knock on container or nudge gently)
2. Check for an expiration date on the tag or tamper seal. Fluid is good for 1 year from installation.
3. Assure unit is clean and free of damage
4. The eyewash station should be unobstructed and easily accessed.
5. Document the inspection tag or log with the date and the inspector's initials



