EMERGENCY EYEWASH/SHOWER GUIDE

MCP-ENG-138-10

Lexington VA Healthcare System
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Rescinded Document:
NONE

Signatory Authority:
Gregory W. Goins, FACHE, Director

Effective Date:
March 4, 2020

Responsible Owner:
Chief, Engineering

Recertification Date:
March 4, 2025

1. POLICY: Provide suitable emergency eyewash/ and shower facilities where there is a reasonable probability that the eyes or body may be exposed to. Provide training to affected staff in the location, user maintenance and testing, and proper use of emergency facilities. Emergency eyewashes and safety showers are not preventive measures and should not be used in lieu of personal protective equipment.

2. JUSTIFICATION: To establish a policy and procedure pertaining to the need, identification, proper use, maintenance, and inspection of emergency eyewash/showers.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. **The Director** will provide adequate resources for the implementation of Emergency Eyewash Stations.

b. **Engineering Service Chief** shall ensure that facility management consults with facility Safety and Health staff on the selection and location of emergency eyewashes and showers; conducts annual flow rate testing and compliance; maintain written records of flow rate testing and compliance assessment and monthly maintenance and testing.

c. **Supervisors** will:

(1) Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment is worn while staff are performing activities that may incur a splash or chemical contact to the eye;

(2) Ensure that emergency eyewash/showers(s) located in service areas are manually inspected on a weekly basis and documentation is maintained in accordance with paragraph 4.f.

4. **PROCEDURES**

a. Services who identify a potential need for an emergency eyewash/shower(s) will completed the hazard analysis (Attachment A) and forward to the Safety Office (138-LD) for review.

b. The Safety Office will work with the requesting service to finalize the hazard analysis, complete a risk assessment and provide determination of emergency eyewash/showers(s) need.

c. Services will work to reduce the number of eyewash stations by striving to implement the following strategies and document their consideration on the hazard analysis:

(1) Elimination or minimizing the use of the hazardous material(s) of concern;

(2) Centralizing the use of the hazardous material(s) of concern;

(3) Implementing engineering controls such as automated dispensing/mixing or splash guarding;

(4) Require the use of "green" chemical products.

d. Engineering services will assess the plumbing and hardware needs for locations of the required emergency eyewash/shower(s) is needed.

e. All services that are determined to need emergency eyewash/shower(s) installed will implement a personal protective equipment guideline to include eye protection using equipment appropriate to the potential hazard, i.e. safety glasses, goggles, face shield etc.

f. All services which have emergency eyewash/shower(s) in their service area, shall provide and document in-service training for affected staff at a minimum, the following procedures:

(1) Keeping eyewashes and showers visible and clear of obstructions or impediments to immediate emergency access and use;

(2) Proper emergency eyewash use is to flush eyes for 15 minutes prior to medical treatment, with eyelids held open and rolling eyeballs, so that water will flow on all surfaces and folds surrounding eyeballs;

(3) Proper emergency shower use is to flush the body for 15 minutes prior to medical treatment with contaminated clothing removed from affected areas.

g. Weekly mandatory service conducted inspections for emergency eyewash and shower units to include the following:

(1) Access path to the units is clear of obstructions and impediments;

(2) Protective eyewash caps are in place or when unit is in operation for eyewash stations;

(3) Eyewash and Shower units will be activated (water turned on) for a period of at least three (3) minutes to properly flush the water line or until water runs clear (whichever is the longer period) to reduce the number of organisms capable of infecting traumatized eyes and to ensure water is present. The handle, which activates the unit, must be a single action initiation device. It should not require additional pressure to maintain the water flow when it is activated; so that both hands are free to hold open eyelids and, in the shower, to remove contaminated clothing;

(4) Ensure that faucet mounted eyewash stations are properly adjusted to provide adequate water flow and correct direction of flow into the eyes.

h. Inspections will be documented.

(1) Monthly inspections will be documented through AMES/MERS PM log. Inspections will follow the performance testing procedures in ANSI Z358.1.

(2) Weekly inspections will be documented on a log must include date of inspection, initials of inspector, EE number of eyewash inspected and location of eyewash inspected. A sample log is provided at Attachment B.

(3) Annual inspections will be documented through the Preventive Maintenance program and follow the guidelines in ANSI Z358.1, sections 4 and 5.

i. Emergency eyewash showers that do not pass weekly or monthly inspections will be tagged “Out of Order” (Attachment C) and a work order placed for repair. The date of the work order will be noted on the “Out of Order” tag. Tags can be obtained through the Engineering Work Order Clerk.

j. Immediately report to employee health following any incident. At earliest convenience the employee must file an incident report in the web based accident and injury reporting system; Employee Compensation Operations & Management Portal (ECOMP).

k. Services will ensure need for eyewash is identified in new project to ensure install prior to work start.

l. Services who are waiting for replacement or funding of an emergency eyewash station will provide their affected staff with portable eyewash bottles. Bottles are strictly an interim measure and exposed employees must get to an emergency eyewash station for a 15 minute flush. The following actions must be completed and documented at initial issue of portable eyewash bottles:

(1) Issue one bottle to each affected employee;

(2) Training on the use of the bottle to include hands on use;

(3) Supervisor must conduct a weekly check of each bottle to ensure it has not expired and to check if bottle has been opened and document;

(4) Expired or open bottles must be replaced immediately. Old bottles may be disposed of by pouring contents down drain and recycling plastic bottle in designated plastic recycling;

(5) Provide a list of employees issued an eyewash bottle, number of bottles in the service and expiration date of employee eyewash solutions.

m. Services must update existing hazard assessments or initiate a new hazard assessment whenever processes change. Supervisors in charge of work are responsible for initiating the hazard assessment.

n. Training.

(1) All personnel assigned to perform repairs and testing of emergency eyewashes and showers must complete training on the manufacturer's specifications and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards for the devices.

(2) Supervisors must complete training on the inspection procedures and requirements for eyewash stations in their respective areas.

(3) Employees issued a portable eyewash bottle must complete hands on training for the portable eyewash bottle.

5. DEFINITIONS: None

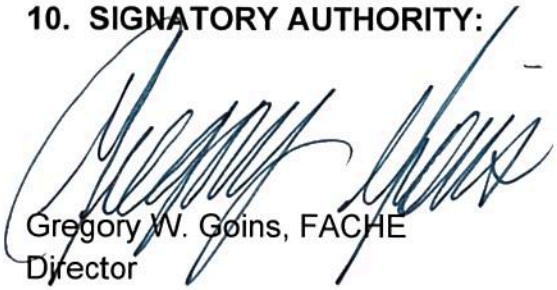
6. **REFERENCES:** 29 CFR 1910.1450 OSHA Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories, ANSI Z358.1-2004, American National Standard Institute for Emergency Eyewash Shower Equipment, VHA Directive 2009-026 Location, Selection, Installation and Maintenance and Testing of Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment and VISN 9 Directive 10-55-07 VISN 9 Environmental, Occupational Safety and Health Program.

7. RESCISSON: None

8. REVIEW: On or before March 4, 2025.

9. RECERTIFICATION: This MCP is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of March 2020. This MCP will continue to serve as local policy until it is recertified or rescinded. In the event of contradiction with national policy, the national policy supersedes and controls.

10. SIGNATORY AUTHORITY:



Gregory W. Goins, FACHE
Director

Attachments

HAZARD ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Activity/facility description:	**Service/Group:**
Location/EE#:	**Date:**
Contact:	**Safety Office Contact:**
INSTRUCTIONS	
The user will complete as much information as possible and forward this worksheet to the Safety Office (138-LD). The Safety	

Office will review and identify additional potential hazards to be addressed. This hazard analysis worksheet shall be retained by the Safety Office as a part of the facility's risk assessment documentation.

SCOPE OF OPERATIONS / ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Description of Activity:

☐ **New activity, or** ☐ **Change to an existing activity. Describe change:**

Equipment Description:

Chemicals/Materials:

Process Parameters (temperature/pressure):

SAFETY & HEALTH HAZARD REVIEW

Check all that apply. Write in specific information describing hazard. Items indicated with an asterisk (*) are extremely hazardous.

☐ Acids	☐ Asbestos / lead (circle) concerns
☐ Bases	☐ Biohazards
☐ Carcinogen*	☐ Compressed gas
☐ Confined spaces	☐ Construction/maintenance activities
☐ Cryogen	☐ Destructive testing
☐ Dusty material/atmosphere	☐ Electrical (high voltage)
☐ Electrical (low voltage) Max 50V	☐ Energized electrical work
☐ Explosive*	☐ Extremely Hazardous Chemicals
☐ Falls from elevation	☐ Fire
☐ Fire protection system modification	☐ Flammable gas
☐ Flammable liquid	☐ Flammable solid
☐ Forklift operation	☐ Glassware
☐ Hand tools	☐ High acute toxicity*
☐ Highly toxic*	☐ Hot work
☐ Hydraulic systems	☐ Ionizing radiation-generating devices
☐ Ladders/scaffolds	☐ Lasers. Specify number and type.
☐ Lighting	☐ Manlift operation
☐ Manual materials handling/Ergonomic concerns	☐ Animals
☐ Noise	☐ Non-ionizing radiation other than laser