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| **Emergency Eyewashes and Safety Showers**  |
| **Purpose** | This procedure provides instructions for testing and using EMERGENCY EYEWASHES AND SAFETY SHOWERS. |
| **Policy Statements** | Eyewashes and safety showers are provided in the laboratory for the emergency treatment of eyes and body of persons that may be exposed to hazardous materials; including acids, caustics, corrosives, or microbial pathogens. These devices are not substitutes for primary protective equipment. Workers must wear eye protection, face protection, gloves, and lab coats as necessary. Eyewashes and safety showers are tested weekly. This policy applies to all laboratory staff. |
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| **Materials** | **Supplies** | **Equipment** |
|  | * Maintenance tag/form
 | * Shower testing kit
	+ Funnel
	+ Collection bucket
 |
|  | **Minneapolis**[Minneapolis Laboratory Safety Equipment Map](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Lab/SOP/Gen/Safety/Res/207198.pdf)[Minneapolis Histology Safety Equipment Map](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Lab/SOP/Gen/Safety/Res/207199.pdf)[Minneapolis CSC Outpatient Lab Safety Equipment Map](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Lab/SOP/Gen/Safety/Res/207200.pdf) | **St. Paul**[St. Paul Laboratory Safety Equipment Map](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Lab/SOP/Gen/Safety/Res/207201.pdf) |
|  | Emergency Eyewash* Main lab (2)
* Microbiology
* Mycology
* Histology (3)
* Chemical recycler room - B366
* Morgue
* CSC outpatient lab
 | Safety Shower* Main lab
* Back hallway between Micro & Molecular
* Histology
* Chemical recycler room – B366
* Morgue
 | Emergency Eyewash* Main lab (2)
* Histology
* Morgue
* Garden View outpatient lab
 | Safety Shower* Main lab (2)
* Morgue
 |  |
| **Special Safety Precautions**  | The first few seconds after exposure to a hazardous chemical (especially a corrosive chemical) are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may result in irreparable tissue damage. Never hesitate to use safety equipment. |
| **Procedure** | Follow the activities in the table below for WEEKLY TESTING OF EMERGENCY EYEWASHES. |
|  | **Step** | **Action** |
|  | 1 | Activate the eyewash and flush for three minutes. This helps to reduce bacterial and amoebic contamination. |
|  | 2 | Remove any clutter around the eyewash so access is not impaired. |
|  | 3 | If water pressure, temperature, or color appears abnormal, contact the Facilities department. |
|  | 4 | After flushing, ensure nozzle caps are back in place to protect them from airborne contaminants. |
|  | 5 | Document the date and tester initials on the maintenance tag/form. |
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| **Procedure** | Follow the activities in the table below for WEEKLY TESTING OF SAFETY SHOWERS.

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| Step | Action |
| 1 | Obtain the shower testing kit. |
| 2 | Hold the funnel around the showerhead and ensure the funnel is draining into the collection bucket. |
| 3 | Pull the ring to activate the shower. |
| 4 | If water pressure, temperature, or color appears abnormal, contact the Facilities department. |
| 5 | Remove any clutter around the shower so access is not impaired. |
| 6 | Empty collection bucket and return shower tester kit to storage. |
| 7 | Document the date and tester initials on the maintenance tag/form. |
| 8 | St. Paul laboratory safety showers are activated weekly by the United Facilities department.Documentation is retained by United Hospital. |

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| **Procedure** | Follow the activities in the table below for **USING THE EYEWASH** **IN AN EMERGENCY.**

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| --- | --- |
| Step | Action |
| 1 | Call out for help. |
| 2 | Go as quickly as possible to the nearest emergency eyewash. |
| 3 | Activate the eyewash. |
| 4 | Flush for a minimum of 15 minutes. Eyelids should be held open and eyeballs rolled back to allow all surfaces of the eye and under the eyelid to be flushed. |
| 5 | Seek medical attention immediately after flushing. Report to the Employee Health Service, Abbott Northwestern or United Emergency Departments. If possible, obtain a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the chemical that was the source of the exposure and bring it along or have it faxed.SDSs are located online on Star Net under the Emergency and Safety tab or click this link: [MSDS Online](https://msdsmanagement.msdsonline.com/a07dc954-23d8-42a9-b591-ef5763cdfd33/ebinder/?nas=True) |
| 6 | Complete [Employee Incident/Injury Report Form](http://intranet.childrensmn.org/forms/EmployeeIncident/EmployeeIncident.asp) |
| 7 | Report the event to laboratory leadership. |

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| **Procedure** | Follow the activities in the table below for **USING THE SAFETY SHOWER IN AN EMERGENCY**.

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| Step | Action |
| 1 | Call out for help. |
| 2 | Go as quickly as possible to the nearest safety shower. |
| 3 | Activate the shower. |
| 4 | Make sure the victim is completely drenched. Flush for at least 15 minutes. |
| 5 | Protect the eyes from inadvertent contamination. |
| 6 | Remove contaminated clothing, jewelry and shoes. Don’t let modesty slow you down. Every second counts. Use a clean lab coat to provide privacy and warmth. |
| 7 | Contain contaminated water with absorbent material, if safe and possible to do so. Call Facilities as soon as possible to help collect water. |
| 8 | Helpers may also need to be decontaminated. |
| 9 | When indicated, dispose of contaminated clothing and other items as hazardous material. Contact the Laboratory Safety Officer to determine how to handle contaminated clothing (will vary depending on contents of spill). If new clothing is necessary:* Minneapolis: Go to Surgery & obtain a set of scrub clothing.
* St. Paul: Go to EVS & obtain a set of scrub clothing.
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| 10 | Seek medical attention immediately after flushing. Report to the Employee Health Service, Abbott Northwestern or United Emergency Departments. If possible, obtain an SDS for the chemical that was the source of the exposure and bring it along or have it faxed.SDSs are located online on Star Net under the Emergency and Safety tab or click this link: [MSDS Online](https://msdsmanagement.msdsonline.com/a07dc954-23d8-42a9-b591-ef5763cdfd33/ebinder/?nas=True) |
| 11 | Complete [Employee Incident/Injury Report Form](http://intranet.childrensmn.org/forms/EmployeeIncident/EmployeeIncident.asp) |
| 12 | Report the event to laboratory leadership. |

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| **Related Documents** | [Hospital Emergency Eyewash and Shower Stations](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Safety/Emp/Eye/124719.pdf)[1067.00 Work Related Injury/Illness Reporting and Management](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Policy/1000/004975.asp)[1213.00 Blood or Body Fluid Post-Exposure Management – Health Care Workers](http://khan.childrensmn.org/manuals/policy/1200/032695.pdf)[SA 7.06 Hazardous Chemical Spill Cleanup](https://starnet.childrenshc.org/References/labsop/gen/safety/sa/sa-7.06-hazardous-chemical-spill-cleanup.pdf) |
| **References** | 1. ANSI Z358.1–2009, American National Standards Institute; Eyewash Standard, 2009.
2. CLSI. Clinical Laboratory Safety; Approved Guideline-Third Edition. CLSI document GP17-A3.

Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2012.1. OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030).
2. OSHA Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories (29 CFR 1910.1450).
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| **Historical Record** | **Version** | **Written/Revised by:** | **Effective Date:** | **Summary of Revisions** |
| 1 | Carol Cram  | 08/26/99 | Initial Version |
|  | 2 | Kerstin Halverson | 07/01/03 |  |
|  | 2.1 | Kerstin Halverson | 07/11/05 |  |
|  | 3 | Carol Buhl & Daniel Olson | 10/27/11 | Reformatted.Updated locations of eyewashes and safety showers. Removed installation instructions. Updated references. |
|  | 4 | Carol Buhl | 07/31/14 | Renumbered from 7.3.Added ‘Related Documents’ section.Updated references. |
|  | 5 | Carol Buhl | 07/31/15 | Corrected date for version 4.Added hyperlink to SDS. |
|  | 6 | Carol Buhl & Laboratory Safety Committee | 06/28/17 | Added weekly shower testing in the Stp laboratory is performed by United. Updated hyperlinks to SDS information and Incident/Injury Report Form. |