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Laboratory
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Laboratory Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment

Document Type: Policy

I. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE:

- A. This policy is to enforce eyewash and shower equipment safety standards and regulations to help improve worker safety in the event of a biological or chemical splash.
- B. Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) requires that in locations “where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.” In addition, anyone who may be exposed to blood or other potentially toxic or infectious material needs to have emergency equipment available.

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

- A. It is the policy of this laboratory that:
 1. Employees use available and appropriate personal protective equipment.
 2. The laboratory will have adequate plumbed or self-contained emergency eyewash facilities in every area where there are hazardous chemicals as defined by the laboratory's chemical hygiene plan (e.g. chemicals that are irritating, corrosive, toxic by contact or absorption).
 3. Facilities follow the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z358.1, 2014 standard when performing inspections.
 4. The laboratory will work with facilities maintenance on the following maintenance:
 - a. No greater than 10 seconds travel distance from areas in the laboratory where hazardous chemicals are present.
 - b. Capable of delivering 1.5 liters/minute for 15 minutes.
 - c. Flow is provided to both eyes simultaneously.
 - d. Nozzles or covers to protect from airborne contaminants.
 - e. Hands-free flow once activated.
 - f. Signage for location of eyewash.

- g. Unobstructed path with unlocked doors opening in the direction of the eyewash.
 - h. Plumbed systems are protected from unauthorized shut off
 - i. Tepid fluid temperature (Water temperature should be between 60°F and 100°F. (Actual temperature recording is not required.)
 - j. Plumbed systems are activated weekly.
 - k. Self-contained units are visually examined weekly.
5. While not a preferred method, drench hoses may be used if installed and activated as an eyewash. Bottled eyewashes may be supplied in certain areas depending upon nature of hazards (a risk assessment must be completed.)

III. DEFINITIONS/ACRONYMS:

- A. **MIOSHA** – Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- B. **ANSI**- American National Standards Institute
- C. **Hazardous Material** (ANSI definition): Hazardous material includes caustics, as well as additional substances and compounds that have the capability of producing adverse effects on the health and safety of humans.
- D. **Plumbed Eyewash Station**: An eyewash unit permanently connected to a potable water source.

IV. PROCEDURE:

A. **Emergency**

- 1. Employee is to flush eyes with the aid of co-workers if necessary.
- 2. Be seen in the Emergency Center or Employee Health Services.
- 3. Complete the online Illness and Injury Form located on the Beaumont intranet under Applications, Employee Health Incident Reporting Login. Refer to [Work Related Injury and Illness](#) and [Laboratory Employee Incident Investigation and Root Cause Analysis](#)

B. **General Maintenance**

Weekly flushing helps to prevent bacterial build-up in the pipe lines and minimizes the build-up of sediment. It is very important all eyewash and shower equipment is maintained in optimal working condition and is flushed weekly.

- 1. Personnel activate the eyewash equipment weekly and flush for 1 minute documenting this activity on the appropriate log form in the laboratory section.
- 2. Check the eyepieces are clean and free from any build up.
- 3. Facilities Maintenance conducts preventive maintenance and documents as well. Testing records may be requested by giving the property tag number.

C. **Laboratory Leader Responsibility**

- 1. Train all employees on Hazard Communication (Right to Know) including the use of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) including for transferred employees. Refer to [Laboratory Education - New Hire Education](#) for the employee safety training checklist.
- 2. Employees are made aware of eyewash and shower locations.

3. Train employees who may be exposed to hazardous or corrosive substances on the proper use and maintenance of the eyewash equipment before using.
4. Have manufacturer's specifications available.
5. Perform a risk assessment of areas under their supervision and report any eyewash or shower without a property tag number to facilities maintenance for their preventive maintenance program.
6. Pathways are unobstructed to eyewash and/or shower.

D. Employee Responsibility

1. Understand and perform correct Hazard Communication practices; know how to locate the Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
2. Know the locations of eyewash and shower locations.
3. Know how to activate the eyewash or shower.
4. Verify there are unobstructed pathways to eyewash and/or shower.

V. REFERENCES:

- A. MIOSHA Part 472 Medical Services and Emergency First Aid
- B. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Medical and First Aid Standards, 29 CFR.1910.151
- C. ANSI Eyewash Z358.1 – 2014
- D. College of American Pathologists Laboratory General Checklist, most current version – Emergency Eyewash

Attachments

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
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Policy and Forms Steering Committee Approval (if needed)	Jennie Green: Mgr Laboratory	10/15/2021
Policy and Forms Steering Committee	Gail Juleff: Project Mgr Policy	10/15/2021

Step Description	Approver	Date
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Operations Directors	Kimberly Geck: Dir, Lab Operations B	10/1/2021
Operations Directors	Brittnie Berger: Dir, Lab Operations C	10/1/2021
Quality Best Practice	Jennie Green: Mgr Laboratory	10/1/2021
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Applicability

Dearborn, Farmington Hills, Grosse Pointe, Royal Oak, Taylor, Trenton, Troy, Wayne

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