

FACT SHEET: Emergency Showers/Eyewash Stations Operational Use



Any areas where hazardous chemicals or biological agents are being used or stored must have access to Emergency Showers and Eyewash Stations. These are emergency safety equipment that will be used in the event of a hazardous exposure. They must be properly maintained, and staff working in these locations must be familiar with their operation to ensure quick and reliable use in the event of an emergency.

NEED TO KNOW:

1. Eyewash stations must be clean, sanitary, and flushed **weekly**.
2. Emergency showers are inspected and tested regularly by Facilities/Campus Services.
3. **DO NOT** block areas where emergency showers/eyewash stations are located. They must remain unobstructed and easily accessible.
4. When there is an eye splash, **ALWAYS** flush the affected area for at least 15 minutes. Contact TUPD using your campus specific number (See back of your Splash Card).

WHEN ARE THEY REQUIRED?

- Where hazardous, corrosive, and irritating chemicals are stored or manipulated
- In laboratories using formaldehyde, biological materials, blood, bodily fluids, or select agents

INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Emergency showers and eyewash stations must be installed within 10 seconds walking distance (~55 feet) from the hazardous area and on the same level/floor.
- Activation of eyewashes should only require a single action (pushing a lever).
- Eyewash must be able to run for 15 minutes without clogging.
- In areas where corrosive materials are handled, emergency showers and eyewash stations must be installed adjacent to the most hazardous area.
- Pathways to emergency showers and eyewash stations must remain clear and unobstructed; never store items around or below them.
- Shower pulls should be placed at a reachable height for all users.
- Emergency eyewash stations must be flushed **weekly** by users to prevent contamination and ensure they are working properly. Testing records must be logged and readily available. Check sheet templates are available on the OEHS website.
- Dust caps must be put back in place after use.
- Emergency showers must be inspected at least **annually** by Facilities/Campus Services.



MORE INFO:



! OPERATION OF EMERGENCY SHOWERS AND EYEWASH STATIONS:

- Activate the emergency shower or eyewash station and flush the affected area for at least 15 minutes.
- Hold the eyelids open for the duration of flushing to ensure complete cleansing.
- If you need emergency services, contact the Tulane Police Department for your campus (back of splash card) instead of calling 911.
- Report any injuries to the Employee Injury Call Center at (855)-433-9938.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Lab Manager: [OSHA and ANSI Requirements for Eyewash and Safety Showers](#)
- ANSI: [Emergency Eyewash & Shower Standard](#)
- Guardian Emergency Shower and Eyewash Technology ANSI/ISEA: [Compliance Checklist](#)