

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

USE AND WEEKLY INSPECTION OF EMERGENCY EYEWASH STATIONS

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the procedures for testing the emergency eyewash station in all McMaster BSL I and BSL II lab areas. All emergency showers are tested by McMaster Facility Services on an annual basis.

This SOP applies to all technicians responsible for ensuring lab safety.

This SOP contains the following:

- 1.0 Emergency use of eyewash station.
- 2.0 Weekly testing and inspection of the eyewash station.

1.0 Emergency use of eyewash station:

Immediate and proper use of emergency eyewash and safety showers is essential to minimizing injury upon injurious hazardous material contact. The following guidelines should aid in minimizing injury due to contact with hazardous materials.

- 1.1. Pull eyewash arm down to be parallel to the floor to activate water flow.
- 1.2. Flush eyes for at least 15 minutes. Never use home-made neutralizing solutions to flush chemicals from the body.
- 1.3. Hold eyelids open with fingers so flushing fluid can fully irrigate the eyes. Note: People may not always be able to flush their eyes on their own because of intense pain. Nearby helpers should be prepared to assist with holding the eyelids open. Other helpers may need to assist with keeping the person under the flushing fluid for at least 15 minutes.
- 1.4. Seek medical attention after flushing the areas of contact for at least 15 minutes.
- 1.5. Notify supervisor as soon as the emergency has subsided and fill out an incident report.

2.0 Weekly testing and inspection of the eyewash station:

Emergency eyewash station and eye/face wash stations/units in laboratories should be activated weekly, if proper drainage for the water is available, to verify operation and ensure flushing fluid is available. Flush for at least three minutes. Inspect eyewash and eye/face wash stations while flushing to make sure that water rises to approximately equal heights, and that fluid flow is sufficient to flush both eyes simultaneously while at a velocity low enough to be non-injurious to the user.

- 2.1. Ensure the area around the eyewash is clear of obstructions.
- 2.2. Align a bucket or reservoir under the emergency eyewash to catch overspill if the eyewash is not located directly over a sink.
- 2.3. Engage the eyewash by pulling the arm down to be parallel to the floor to activate the flow of water. Ensure that:
 - The water flows clear.
 - The jets work properly.
 - No leaks occur.
- 2.4. To stop the flow of water, pushy the arm back to the upward position.
- 2.5. Record testing and flushing on the inspection log posted near the eyewash station. Record the date and the initials of the person who performed the test. Blank copies of the inspection logs can be found by referring to the following website http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/safetyoffice/forms_and_records.html.
- 2.6. If any deficiencies are noted during testing, contact FHS Engineering at x75501 or Facilities Services at x24740 or submit a work order request at <http://aappsrvr.mcmaster.ca/facilityservices/> to repair the unit.