

Eyewash and Safety Shower DO'S AND DON'TS

DO - Keep the pathway to the emergency shower and eyewash clear of obstructions. The area should be kept neat and easily accessible with at least 32 inches of clear space around a safety shower and 6 inches clearance around an eyewash.

DO NOT - Keep electrical equipment near eyewashes and emergency showers.

DO - Leave dust covers supplied with the eyewash in place. They prevent dust and debris from falling inside the eyewash heads and becoming projectiles when the unit is turned on.

DO NOT - Use safety equipment for cleaning lab or shop equipment, personal objects, or for other non-emergency purposes.

DO - Bump test the emergency shower and eyewash equipment weekly and prior to performing high-risk tasks. **Obtain a 5 gallon bucket, hold it up around the shower head, activate the shower and run for approximately 10 seconds or until bucket is full. When bump testing eyewash, let it run for 15 seconds, or until water is clear, if no drain is available place a small catch basin under drain before activating. Initial and date the inspection tag.**

DO NOT - Remove any safety features attached to equipment, inspection tags or repair required tags.

Brief overview on how to use equipment:

To use emergency eye wash:

- If working in a lab that has multiple occupants, have someone call 911 while you are flushing eyes, if alone flush eyes first.
- **Immediately flush eyes** for at least 15 minutes while flushing **Keep the eyes open and rotate the eyeballs in all directions** to remove contamination from around the eyes. An injured person may need help holding the eyelids open.
- **Call 911 to seek medical attention after flushing is complete or go to your nearest medical treatment facility**
- Have someone bring or fax the [Safety Data Sheet](#) for the chemical to the doctor.
- **Report the injury or exposure to WVU EH&S.**

To use emergency shower:

- If working in a lab that has multiple occupants, have someone call 911 while you are showering, if alone shower first.
- **Immediately flush the affected area** with copious quantities of water for at least 15 minutes. Protect the eyes from inadvertent contamination.
- Remove contaminated clothing, jewelry, and shoes. **Don't let modesty slow you down. Every second counts.** Use a clean lab coat if available to provide privacy and warmth.
- **Call 911 to seek medical attention after showering is complete or go to your nearest medical treatment facility**
- Have someone bring or fax the [Safety Data Sheet](#) for the chemical to the doctor.
- **Report the injury or exposure to WVU EH&S.**

Remember, emergency showers and eyewashes are not a substitute for safe work practices. When there's a possibility of a chemical splash, proper handling techniques must be used. Personal protective devices, such as face shields and/or goggles, gloves and aprons must be worn.

Do - report equipment problems to your building supervisor & CHO. If your eye wash or emergency shower has not been inspected or equipment problems have not been addressed please contact **WVU EH&S at (304)293-3792.**