

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 03-003	
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SAFETY EQUIPMENT

1. Emergency (Safety) Showers



Emergency or safety showers are designed to deliver a gentle flood-type spray of tempered water over a person for a minimum period of 15 minutes to flush chemicals from the body or extinguish clothing fires.

- 1.1 Emergency Showers should be accessible to faculty, staff and students handling large quantities of chemicals.
- 1.2 Emergency showers are activated by a double pull chain or pull-bar which is located alongside the shower head.
- 1.3 An area immediately under the emergency shower head (minimum diameter of 44 inches) must be maintained free of all obstacles at all times. Floor drains are recommended but not required adjacent to emergency showers.
- 1.4 Emergency showers are inspected and flow tested annually by University Plumbers.
- 1.5 Emergency showers should not be used for any other purpose. Anyone having used an emergency shower to flush chemicals from their body should seek immediate medical attention after providing the recommended 15 minute flush.

2. Emergency Eyewash Stations



Eyewash stations supply a gentle flood-type spray of tempered water for a minimum of 15 minutes to flush contaminants from the eyes.

- 2.1 Emergency eyewash stations should be accessible to all areas where there is increased potential for eye injury, such as due to chemical splash or handling of potentially infectious materials.
- 2.2 “Stay-on” control valves are operated by a single motion such as a hand paddle or foot peddle. Eyewash stations must be activated weekly by personnel in the area of responsibility.
 - 2.2.1 Eyewash stations can be used for other purposes. This helps with flushing of the lines and creates familiarity with equipment location.
 - 2.2.2 Anyone having used an eyewash station to flush chemicals or particles from eyes should seek immediate medical attention after the 15 minute flush.

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3. Eye, Face and Body Spray Hoses

Eye, face and body spray hoses are eye wash stations that also have a retractable or fixed hose that can flush eyes and other affected body parts.

- 3.1 Eye, face and body spray hoses should be equipped and maintained in a manner similar to eye wash stations (i.e. tempered water supply, stay-on valve and operation, used for other purposes, weekly integrity check by area staff)
- 3.2 Eye, face and body spray hoses should be equipped with dual nozzles to treat both eyes simultaneously when necessary.