

## EYEWASH FOUNTAINS & SAFETY SHOWERS

### *How to Use and Test*

Use eyewash fountains and safety showers in the event of chemical exposure to eyes or skin. Environmental Health and Safety may inspect eyewash fountains and safety showers annually using procedures recommended by the American National Standards Institute. It is important, however, to test and flush this equipment more frequently; tests will reveal plumbing problems, reduce buildup of sediment in the lines, flush out microorganisms that can cause infection, and make users more familiar and confident with the operation of the equipment. Eyewash fountains should be tested weekly and safety showers should be tested monthly by potential users of the equipment.

### EYEWASH FOUNTAINS

#### **To use:**

- ✓ Push the lever to turn on. Water should run until the lever is turned off.
- ✓ Flush eyes for 15-20 minutes.
  - *Note: Many fountains do not drain to the sewer; water in these fountains will overflow.*
- ✓ Pull lever back to turn off.
- ✓ Report all accidents to the supervisor, the department chair, and EHS.

#### **To test: (Should Be Tested Weekly)**

- ✓ Most fountains do not have drains, so use a bucket to catch the water.
- ✓ Turn on the valve and let the water run for 15-30 seconds. If the water is discolored or contains a lot of sediment, let it run until it is clear.
- ✓ Report problems (e.g., uneven spray, missing screen, no water or poor flow, valve lever releases so water doesn't stay on, missing protective caps) to the supervisor and EHS.
- ✓ With a permanent pen write the date and your initials on the laminated flushing record form located near the unit.

### SAFETY SHOWERS

#### **To use:**

- ✓ Pull the handle down to turn on.
- ✓ Remove clothing if necessary.
  - *Note: 20-40 gallons per minute will flow until handle is pushed up. Some showers do not have floor drains; if an assistant is available, he/she should mop the floor.*
- ✓ Push handle up to stop flow when finished.
- ✓ If possible, the shower water should be retained for Environmental Health and Safety.
- ✓ Report all accidents to the supervisor, the department chair, and EHS.

#### **To test: (Should Be Tested Monthly)**

- ✓ The testing procedure may be much easier with two people to share the tasks.
- ✓ In some cases, the handle to turn the shower off is located higher than the handle to turn the shower on. **Please make sure that you can reach both handles before testing the emergency shower in your lab.**
- ✓ Some showers do not have drains; use the Emergency Shower Test Kit (five gallon bucket, vinyl sleeve, and PVC pole) to collect the water.
- ✓ To activate the shower, pull the handle down. Run 3-4 gallons of water through. If it is clear, then stop. Push the handle up to turn off the water. If the water is cloudy or dirty, dump out the bucket then run an additional 3-4 gallons of water through. Continue until the water runs clear.
- ✓ Wipe up any water not collected in the bucket.
- ✓ Report problems (e.g., no water or poor flow, valve lever releases so water doesn't stay on, leaking valve after the test), to the supervisor and EHS.
- ✓ With a permanent pen write the date and your initials on the laminated flushing record form located near the unit.