

Eye-Wash & Shower



Safety Gram

APRIL
2022

General Information on Safety Showers

Eye-Wash and Showers are for labs that contain hazardous chemicals. They should easily be accessible by being no more than 10 seconds of a walking distance away from any point in the lab. These shower and eye-wash stations should be inspected annually and should be run at least weekly to ensure no blockage in the pipe system. Employees should be trained on where the eye-wash and shower station are as well as how to use them.

Employees should also be trained to not block access to the safety flush equipment as well as not placing other equipment around it. This especially applies to electrical equipment that could be potentially damaged if water were to get on it.

The dust caps should be kept on the hoses for the eye-wash station when not in use to ensure the prevention of contamination. If the dust caps are damaged or missing, they should be replaced in order to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the eye-wash station and shower.

Safety Committee

The purpose of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Safety Committee is to help protect researchers, workers, and students in the department.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions about department safety or working conditions.

Matthew Allen

801-310-6725, BNSN C184B
amatthew@chem.byu.edu

Todd Bronson

801-422-7388, BNSN C163
tbronson@chem.byu.edu

Jim Harper

801-422-5044, BNSN C363
jkharp@chem.byu.edu

Roger Harrison

801-422-8096, BNSN C104A
rgarrison@chem.byu.edu

James Moody

801-422-6272, BNSN C288
jdmoo@chem.byu.edu



Using the Eye-Wash & Shower

Here are some instructions on how to use the eye-wash and shower station when needed.

Using the Eye-Wash Station:

1. Shout for assistance to help make your way towards the eye-wash station.
2. Push down the lever on the right side of the eye-wash station.
3. Hold eye-lids open while water is running through them.
4. Rotate the eyes up, down, left, then right in order to wash the eyes as thoroughly as possible.
5. Rinse the eyes for the specified time that is written on the Safety Data Sheet of the chemical that has caused the accident (Generally, the rule is for 15 minutes, but some guidelines could be different depending on the hazardous chemical).

Using the Shower Station:

1. Shout for assistance to help make your way towards the shower.
2. Pull down the handle found on the right side of the shower.
3. Remove all clothing.
4. Rinse for as long as it is recommended in the Safety Data Sheet of the hazardous chemical (Generally, the rule is for 15 minutes, but some guidelines could be different depending on the hazardous chemical).

Note: A modesty curtain should be provided for the safety shower.

When Helping Others:

1. Guide them to the eye-wash and shower station.
2. Tell them to remove their clothing.
3. Call 911 or the university police: (801) 422-2222.

If Dealing with Hydrofluoric Acid:

1. Rinse the affected area for 5 minutes.
2. Rub calcium gluconate on the affected area until further help arrives.
3. Someone should immediately contact 911 so that the exposed individual could be treated as soon as possible.

Real Life Examples

Below are some real life examples of how emergency equipment has helped students in lab settings.

"A student in a quantitative analysis lab was cleaning glassware with chromic acid solution. The lab was staffed by a graduate student. I was in my office at the time. I was drawn to the lab by screams and the noise of confusion. The student had splashed the cleaning solution into his eyes. His goggles were around his neck and he had contact lenses that were not allowed to be worn in the lab. Luckily they were hard lenses. We irrigated for 15-20 minutes with an eyewash hose and were able to flush out the lenses and clean the eye. Subsequently he received medical attention and had no loss of sight."

-Anonymous

"One gallon of hydrochloric acid was left on a lab table under the hood when apparently for no reason the bottle cracked and the acid spilled over the table and floor. Unfortunately, a student was walking by the table at the same time. The acid splashed on her shoes, nylons, legs and dress. The student froze in her tracks. The teacher immediately ripped off the nylons and brought the student to the shower. A deluge of water prevented any serious scars."

-Anonymous