# University Health and Safety Fact Sheet

## **Eyewash Requirements**

Eyewashes must be readily accessible in areas with a fume hood, hazardous chemicals, and BSL-2 or BSL-3 spaces. They must be flushed weekly to ensure they are working and to prevent bacteria buildup. Records must be readily available and kept for 1 year.

### Weekly checks

Visual inspection:

- 1. Check for corrosion, leaks, and bacteria growth on the surface
- 2. Make sure the eyewash area is free from clutter and is easily accessible
- 3. Check that the eyewash log is visible, signed weekly, and in good condition

#### Flush:

- 1. Flush for 2-3 minutes or until the water runs clear
- 2. Check that the water flow is immediate (within one second), continuous, and that both streams are roughly the same height
- 3. Make sure that a hands-free unit can be operated as such
- 4. Sign the log posted next to the eyewash

Report any problems to Facilities Management at 612-624-2900.

#### In the event of an eye exposure

If you are the injured person:

- 1. Call for help from those nearby
- 2. Immediately go to the eyewash
- 3. Activate the eye wash and flush your eyes for 15 minutes, unless directed otherwise by emergency personnel
- 4. Seek medical attention for every eye injury

If you are the witness/aid:

- 1. Help the injured person get to the eyewash
- 2. Call 911
- 3. Don gloves and help the injured party keep their eyes open and head down
- 4. Instruct the injured person to:
  - a. Remove contact lenses prior to flushing
  - b. Not to rub their eyes or try to dislodge objects
  - c. Hold their eyelids open and roll their eyes around to ensure water touches all surfaces
  - d. Wash both eyes even if they only believe one has been contaminated
- 5. Make sure there is a minimum of 15 minutes of flushing, unless directed otherwise by emergency responders







Image source: UC San Diego

### **Eyewash Flush Record**

#### All eyewashes must be inspected and flushed weekly.

- Ensure that access to the eyewash is unobstructed
- Physically inspect for leaks, corrosion or bacteria buildup
- Flush for 2-3 minutes or until water is clear
- Check for insufficient or uneven flow
- Post this log near the eyewash and keep records for one year
- Submit repair requests for any identified problems to Facilities Management at 612-624-2900

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NOTE – Facilities Management tests showers and eyewashes annually. The record of this is on a small green tag attached to the equipment. Please <u>do not</u> write on this tag and contact FM if the last record was more than one year ago.