

# Eyewash Stations & Safety Showers

## Emergency Eyewash and Safety Shower Requirements

Eyewash stations and safety showers mitigate the effects of exposures to hazardous materials. Eyewash stations and safety showers are required in any lab/shop with substantial amounts of corrosive, toxic, reactive, or radioactive chemicals. Based on EH&S risk assessment, they may also be required in labs with BSL2 materials. Operational knowledge of this emergency equipment is critical. **Even a few seconds of delay may result in permanent injuries.**

Some chemicals have very specific first aid procedures, such as hydrofluoric acid and water-reactive chemicals. Always consult the Safety Data Sheet and Standard Operating Procedures for first aid instructions before using a chemical. **Contact FD&O (408-924-1990) immediately if a unit is malfunctioning or is not receiving monthly inspections.**

**YOU MAY BE BLINDED, ON FIRE, OR INJURED WHEN YOU NEED THESE TOOLS.  
HAZARDOUS WORK MUST BE WITHIN A 10 SEC BLIND-STAGGER OF THESE TOOLS.  
ALWAYS KEEP ACCESS ROUTES TO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT CLEAR!**

## When to Use Emergency Eyewash or Safety Shower

**Use the emergency eye wash immediately if your eyes are exposed to a hazardous material.**

Avoid using eyewashes when the injury involves rigid material such as a metal shaving.

**Use an emergency shower immediately if your skin is exposed to a hazardous material or if your body is on fire.**

If the exposure caused dizziness or breathing issues, sit in a chair under the safety shower and make sure a safety buddy closely monitors consciousness and breathing. Do not move an unconscious person into a safety shower.

## How to Use an Emergency Eyewash and Safety Shower

### Eyewash

- Carefully remove your safety eyewear.
- Pull the handle, push the activator, or step on the push plate to activate the eyewash.
- **USE CLEAN GLOVE TO REMOVE CONTACT LENSES WHILE USING THE EYE WASH.**
- Use clean gloved hand to hold open your eyes. If clean gloves aren't readily available, you must decide whether your existing gloves are clean enough OR you may need to risk a hand exposure to save your eyes.
- A 15 minute flush is usually sufficient-- make sure to check if your materials are an exception in the Safety Data Sheet!
- Call UPD for help (blue light, 911 on campus phone, or 408-924-2222). Provide Safety Data Sheet to first responders.
- Report the injury to the lab/shop supervisor.



### Safety Shower

- Activate the shower by pulling the handle.
- Remove contaminated clothes, shoes, and accessories while in safety shower.
- A 15 minute flush is usually sufficient-- make sure to check if your materials are an exception in the Safety Data Sheet!
- Call UPD for help (blue light, 911 on campus phone, or 408-924-2222). Provide Safety Data Sheet to first responders.
- Report the injury to the lab/shop supervisor.

**Only use this equipment for emergencies.** Most safety showers are not plumbed to drain and will flood the lab/shop. Do not store delicate items or electronics near safety showers. FD&O will remove the water so the lab/shop can reopen safely. If possible for small exposures, use the eye wash or sink instead of shower to prevent flooding.

**CONTACT EH&S FOR CONSULTATION REGARDING USE AND PLACEMENT OF EYEWASH AND SAFETY SHOWERS.**

## Need Help?

- Ask the lab/shop supervisor
- Ask the department/college safety staff
- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety ehs@sjsu.edu