

Safety Eyewashes and Emergency Showers.

OSHA Regulation.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 was enacted to assure that workers are provided with “safe and healthy working conditions.” OSHA has adopted several regulations that refer to the use of emergency eyewash and shower equipment.

The primary regulation is contained in **29 CFR 1910.151**, which requires that... “...where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.”

EYEWASHES COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS (ANSI GUIDANCE ANSI Z358.1)

Location	Install eyewash wash unit within 10 seconds (approximately 55 feet) of hazard, on the same level as hazard and with unobstructed travel path. Where strong acids or caustics are being handled, the eyewash shall be located immediately adjacent to the hazard. (Section 5.4.2; B5)
Identification	Identify eyewash with highly visible sign. Area around eyewash shall be well-lit. (Section 5.4.3)
Water temperature	Water delivered by eyewash shall be tepid (60-100°F). (Section 5.4.6)
Training	Instruct all employees in the location and proper use of eyewashes. (Section 5.5.4)
Maintenance/inspection	Activate eyewash at least weekly. (Section 5.5.2) Inspect annually for compliance with standard. (Section 5.5.5)

Examples of Eyewash station present on MTSU campus



Steps to using the eyewash

- In the event of an incident, go directly to the eyewash station.
- Pull the lever to activate the eyewash.
- Get your eyes directly in the stream of the flushing fluid.
- Hold your eyes open with your fingers. Keep your eyes open holding your eyelids apart with your fingers.
- Gently roll your eyes from left to right and up and down to be sure the fluid is flushing all of the areas of your eye.
- Continue flushing your eyes for 15 minutes.

Note:

If you have contact lenses in your eyes, you can gently take them out while you are flushing. Don't delay the flushing to take out your lenses but make sure that you take them out because they could trap the chemical in your eyes.



STEP 1: Pull the lever



STEP 2: Eyes directly in the water



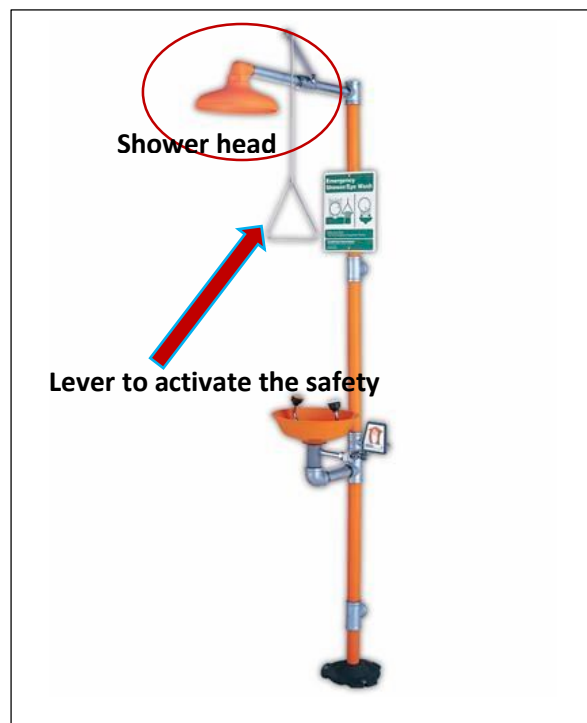
STEP 3: Keep eyes open holding eyelids apart with fingers.

STEP 4: Gently roll eyes from left to right and up and down. Flush for 15 minutes.

EMERGENCY SHOWER COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Location	Install shower within 10 seconds (approximately 55 feet) of hazard, on the same level as hazard and with unobstructed travel path. (Section 4.5.2; B5)
Identification	Identify shower location with highly visible sign. Area around the shower shall be well-lit. (Section 4.5.3)
Water temperature	Water delivered by shower shall be tepid (60-100°F). (Section 4.5.6)
Training	Instruct all employees in the location and proper use of emergency showers. (Section 4.6.4)
Maintenance/inspection	Activate shower at least weekly. (Section 4.6.2) Inspect annually for compliance with standard. (Section 4.6.5)

Examples of safety showers present on MTSU campus



Steps to using the safety shower

- In the event of an incident, go directly to an emergency safety shower.
- Pull the lever to activate the safety shower.
- Remove all clothing and personal item; do not let modesty slow you down. Some else can provide clean clothing or a clean lab coat for privacy.
- Separate your legs and arms, so that there are no "hidden" parts or crevices of your body.
- Stay in the shower for at least 15 minutes or as long as it takes to remove all contamination.

