

University of Pittsburgh Safety Manual	EH&S Guideline Number: 03-003	
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SAFETY EQUIPMENT

1. Emergency (Safety) Showers

Emergency or safety showers are designed to deliver a flood-type spray of tempered water over a person for a minimum period of 15 minutes to flush chemicals from the body or extinguish clothing fires.

- 1.1. Emergency Showers should be accessible to faculty, staff and students handling large quantities of chemicals.
- 1.2. Emergency showers are activated by a pull chain or pull bar, which is located alongside the showerhead.
- 1.3. An area immediately under the emergency showerhead (minimum diameter of 44 inches) must always be maintained free from obstacles. Floor drains are recommended but not required adjacent to emergency showers.
- 1.4. Emergency showers are inspected, and flow tested annually by University Plumbers.
- 1.5. Emergency showers should not be used for any other purpose. University Police (412-624-2121) should be contacted when anyone uses an emergency shower to flush chemicals from their body. The individual should seek immediate medical attention after providing the recommended 15-minute flush.

2. Emergency Eyewash Stations

Eyewash stations supply a gentle flood-type spray of tempered water for a minimum of 15 minutes to flush contaminants from the eyes.

- 2.1. Emergency eyewash stations should be accessible to all areas where there is increased potential for eye injury, such as due to a chemical splash or handling of potentially infectious materials.
- 2.2. “Stay-on” control valves are operated by a single motion such as a hand paddle or foot peddle. Eyewash stations must be activated / tested weekly by personnel in the area of responsibility. Documentation of weekly testing should be readily available.
 - 2.2.1. University Police (412-624-2121) should be contacted when anyone uses an eyewash station to flush chemicals or particles from eyes. The individual should seek immediate medical attention after the 15-minute flush.

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3. Eye, Face and Body Spray Hoses (Drench Hoses)

Eye, face and body spray hoses are eye wash stations that also have a retractable or fixed hose that can flush eyes and other affected body parts.

- 3.1. Eye, face and body spray hoses should be equipped and maintained in the same manner as eye wash stations (i.e. tempered water supply, stay-on valve and operation, weekly integrity check by area staff).
- 3.2. Eye, face and body spray hoses should be equipped with dual nozzles to treat both eyes simultaneously when necessary.