



Eyewash Stations

Many performing art facilities have eyewashes in the shop facilities since these are the typical areas where activities may create chemical or mechanical eye hazard exposures. The placement of the eyewash station is critical; an eyewash station is required by Cal/OSHA to be available within 10 seconds travel time from where the potential eye hazards exist.

Evaluate areas where any painting, spraying, or construction of scenery occurs and determine if there is a need for a plumbed eyewash station.

Evaluate the Following to Determine the Need for an Eyewash Station:

1. Are chemicals (corrosives, irritants, etc.) used that require eyes to be flushed if the individual is splashed in the eyes? Consult Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and if needed, contact the EH&S Department for assistance.
2. How accessible is an eyewash station to the area in which chemicals are being used? Emergency eyewash facilities shall be in accessible locations that require no more than 10 seconds for the injured person to reach.
3. Is the use of face shields, goggles, or safety glasses required for the work performed? If this equipment is required to work with the chemical, then an eyewash station is most likely required. Again, consult the SDS or the EH&S Department.
4. Never use water hoses or sink faucets in place of an emergency eyewash device.



Equipment Operation in an Emergency

1. Move quickly to the nearest eyewash station.
2. Lean over the eyewash station.
3. Push the lever to activate the eyewash.
4. Hold eyelids open and direct the flow of water into the eyes.
5. Continue flushing the eyes for a minimum of 15 minutes.
6. Keep the eyes open and rotate the eyeballs in all directions to remove contamination from around the eyes.
An injured person may require help holding their eyelids open.
7. Seek immediate medical help after flushing the eyes.

Equipment Maintenance

1. Maintain a clear path to and around the emergency eyewash station.
2. Activate eyewash stations at least monthly to flush the line and to verify proper operation.
3. Verify monthly inspection activities and line flushing is being completed by responsible parties. Generally these activities are noted on an inspection tag attached to the equipment.

4. Ensure eyewash spout caps are kept covered to keep them clean.
5. Ensure caps are easy to remove for an emergency.

Additional Tips

1. Keep energized electrical equipment away from eyewashes.
2. Never use eyewashes for cleaning shop equipment or personal objects or for other non-emergency purposes.
3. Never store things on or around eyewash stations.
4. Never delay the use of the emergency eyewash station. The first few seconds after exposure to a hazardous chemical (especially a corrosive chemical) are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may result in irreparable eye damage.
5. Never hesitate to use safety equipment.