

**4. Eye Wash & Emergency shower**

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**ANNUAL REVIEW:**

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**SUPERSEDES:** Procedure titled \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose:**

To Minimize the effects of accidental exposure to hazardous substances, this SOP sets out the policy and procedure for maintaining the Eye Wash and Emergency shower Station(s) in the lab.

**Scope:**

Applies to all lab personnel

## Abbreviations

ANSI - American National Standards institute

SOP- Standard Operating Procedure

PPE-personal protective equipment

MMCCCL- Meharry Medical College Clinical Consolidated Laboratory

## Definitions:

American National Standards institute (ANSI) defines flushing fluid as:

- Potable (Drinking) water
- Preserved Water
- Preserved buffered saline solution
- Other medically acceptable solutions

## Health and Safety:

Be sure to wear all appropriate PPE at all times. Including but not limited to the use of goggles and/or a face shield when splashes may occur.

## Policy:

MMCCCL will ensure proper training in and maintenance of the eyewash and Emergency shower equipment.

## Procedure:

A staff member whose eyes and or face are accidentally exposed to a hazardous substance must flush their eyes for a **MINIMUM of 15 minutes** with a large supply of clean flushing fluid under low pressure. If Body chemical exposure should run to the nearest shower station, get read of all contaminated clothes and shower with plenty of running water

## Eyewash & Emergency Shower Stations:

Immediate and proper use of emergency eyewash and safety showers is essential to minimizing injury. The following guidelines should aid in minimizing injury due

to contact with hazardous materials:

- Flush eyes and/or skin for at least **15 minutes**. Never use home-made neutralizing solutions to flush chemicals from the body.
- Immediately remove contaminated clothing. Do this while under the shower when gross contamination has occurred. Have someone assist with clothing removal when possible.
- Hold eyelids open with fingers so flushing fluid can fully irrigate the eyes. Note: People may not always be able to flush their eyes on their own because of intense pain. Nearby helpers should be prepared to assist with holding the eyelids open. Other helpers may need to assist with keeping the person under the flushing fluid for at least **15 minutes**.
- Seek medical attention after flushing the areas of contact for at least 15 minutes.

Record maintenance record on the Eye Wash/Emergency shower Tracking Form

#### References

<https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHAPubs/factsheets/fs02.pdf>