

EMERGENCY SHOWER AND EYEWASH FLUSHING GUIDE

Version	Date	Comments
1	July 2012	Initial <i>Emergency Shower and Eyewash Flushing Guide</i>

A. SUMMARY

It is the responsibility of each department that have emergency shower and eyewash units in spaces they control to flush these units every other week. The intent of flushing is two-fold: to ensure that fluid is being supplied to the unit; and to purge supply lines so that in the event of emergency use, the fluid supplied is not stagnant, sediment has not built up, and to minimize microbial contamination. ANSI Standard Z358.1-2004 states that this flushing is to occur weekly. Due to the number of eyewashes to be flushed, George Mason has been given permission from Virginia Occupational and Safety (VOSH) to perform flushing on a schedule of every other week. EHS provides departments with the supplies needed to conduct routine shower and eyewash flushing, and trains individuals as needed.

B. SCOPE

This guide applies to all university employees and persons who perform biweekly flushing of emergency shower and/or eyewash equipment.

C. FLUSHING OF EMERGENCY SHOWERS UNITS

Materials needed for flushing, which EHS provides to the department, include

- shower tester bucket,
 - water shoot,
 - and absorbent materials for cleanup.
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- Fasten the top ring of the shoot around the shower head such that the water is captured and funneled into the bucket. Ensure that this shoot is positioned in a manner that the water pressure does not cause the water to flow onto the ground.
 - While the shoot is in position, open the control valve by pulling down on the shower handle. For Water Saver Faucet Company units, the handle is located in the wall. For all other units the handle will be attached directly to the unit.
 - Once the valve has been opened, allow water to flow into the bucket until it runs clear. This may involve dumping the water multiple times before all water is clear.
 - Close the valve by pushing up on the handle. For some units the valve will close and then reopen if the handle is pushed past the point of closure.
 - Dispose of water in a sink. If water is being disposed of outside, it must be disposed of in a manner which would be deemed as beneficial to plants and landscaping (e.g., do not dispose of in loading docks, on concrete, on asphalt, or into evaporation drains).

- Clean up the surrounding floor so as to not present a slip, trip, or fall hazard.
- Completion of flushing should be marked on the Inspection Hangtag located on the unit at the time the unit is flushed. The date, initials of person performing flushing, a check mark and any comments should be included on the hang tag.
- Contact EHS if flushing supplies need to be replaced to include hangtags affixed to shower units.

D. FLUSHING OF EMERGENCY EYEWASH UNITS

Materials needed for the flush include:

- Ziploc bags,
- And absorbent materials for cleanup.
- The method employed for flushing of units is dependent on the type of unit being flushed.
 - For sink mounted units, a Ziploc bag is unnecessary since the discharge from the unit is captured by the sink basin.
 - For combination units and other free standing units that have a basin to capture the discharge, attach the Ziploc bag to the bottom of the pipe where the discharge flows out of the unit onto the floor.
 - For Water Saver Faucet Company units located in Discovery Hall in hallways that neither have a sink nor a collection basin, place the Ziploc bags directly over both nozzles.
- Activate the unit.
 - For faucet mounted units, turn the water on and pull the valve pin.
 - For combination and sink mounted units, push the flag. Some of these units also come equipped with a valve operated by a foot pedal. When a unit contains a flag and foot pedal, the unit should be flushed twice to ensure that both valve operations work properly.
 - For wall units, pull down on the entire unit so it swings down and forward.
- The valve should be activated until the water runs clear.
- Turn the valve to the off position.
 - Remove Ziploc bags when required and dispose of water. Dispose of water in a sink. If water is being disposed of outside, it must be disposed of in a manner which would be deemed as beneficial to plants and landscaping (e.g., do not dispose of in loading docks, on concrete, on asphalt, or into evaporation drains).
 - Replace the eyewash caps and ensure that the basin is clean and clear of debris.
- Clean up the surrounding floor so as to not present a slip, trip, or fall hazard.
- Completion of flushing should be marked on the inspection hangtag located on the unit at the time the unit is flushed. The date, initials of person performing flushing, a check mark and any comments should be included on the hangtag.
- Contact EHS if flushing supplies need to be replaced to include hangtags affixed to eyewash units.