

LAB SAFETY GUIDE –

Emergency Eyewashes and Safety Showers

Safety Requirements:

- Installed in all laboratories in which hazardous chemicals are handled and could potentially contact the eyes or skin resulting in injury.
- Located within 10 seconds or 55 feet from known hazards, or closer for higher risk chemical handlings.
- Accessible without obstructions along the travel path and in the area around the emergency equipment.
- Visually inspected and flushed weekly by lab personnel to verify units are in good working condition.
- Tested semi-annually by an independent contractor. Semi-annual testing is managed by the Environmental Compliance and Occupational Safety (ECOS) department.
- All lab members must be trained in the location(s) and proper use of eyewashes and safety showers.

How-To Tips:

How-to ensure your emergency eyewashes and safety showers are ...

- ...tested semi-annually:
 - Check the Equipment inventory in your lab's SciShield profile to verify that the emergency eyewash and safety shower inventory is accurate.
 - Reach out to labsafety@northeastern.edu if updates to the inventory are needed.
- ...readily accessible:
 - Measure the time and distance it takes you to arrive at the emergency equipment. If time/distance are too long or if you must go through a door, reach out to labsafety@northeastern.edu.
 - Keep the lab tidy and clean, ensuring the travel path to the emergency equipment is unobstructed and that the area around the equipment is kept clear and free of obstructions.
 - Reach out to labsafety@northeastern.edu for a space and risk assessment. This is especially recommended for high-risk chemical processes where it may be necessary to install a primary or supplemental unit in closer proximity to the hazard.
- ...in good working condition:
 - Assign weekly inspection and flushing responsibilities to member(s) of the lab group and record in a logbook or tag hung near the emergency equipment. See the next page for weekly inspection and flushing procedures and tag templates for lab personnel.
 - If your lab's emergency eyewashes or safety showers are damaged, not working, or overdue for semi-annual testing, submit a work order to Facilities at <https://facilities.northeastern.edu/request-repair/>. For repairs, restrict activities in the lab until equipment is repaired and fully operational.

LAB SAFETY PROCEDURES –

Emergency Eyewashes and Safety Showers:

Weekly Inspection and Flushing by Lab Personnel



Eyewashes:

- Visually inspect eyewashes weekly:
 - Is the travel path and area around the eyewash obstructed?
 - Is the eyewash leaking or visually damaged (leaks, rust, cracks, clogged filters, missing caps, etc.)?
 - Is appropriate and visible signage posted near the eyewash?
 - Is the eyewash overdue for semi-annual testing?
- Flush eyewashes weekly:
 - Activate the eyewash and flush for 1-2 minutes, or longer if needed until the water is clear.
 - Does the eyewash run hands-free after activation?
 - Is water from the eyewash clear in color and free of particulates?
 - Is water from the eyewash room temperature?
 - Are air spurts observed during eyewash flushing?
- Implement corrective actions, as necessary, to ensure eyewashes are fully operational.
- Record weekly inspections and flushing in a logbook or on a tag hung near the equipment for use by lab personnel. This tag must be separate from the tag used for the contractor's semi-annual testing.



Safety Showers:

- Visually inspect safety showers weekly:
 - Is the travel path and area around the safety shower obstructed?
 - Is the safety shower leaking or visually damaged (leaks, rust, cracks, etc.)?
 - Is appropriate and visible signage posted near the safety shower?
- Note: Weekly safety shower flushing is not required, but this may be performed as a best practice.
- Implement corrective actions, as necessary, to ensure safety showers are fully operational.
- Record weekly inspections in a logbook or on a tag hung near the equipment for use by lab personnel. This tag must be separate from the tag used for the contractor's semi-annual testing.

