

Emergency Eyewash Stations/Safety Showers

Overview

Emergency eyewashes and safety showers are essential equipment for every brewery using chemicals and hazardous substances. This emergency equipment serves the purpose of reducing workplace injuries and avoiding chemicals causing further harm to the body.

Emergency Eyewash/ Safety Shower Regulatory Reference

- According to OSHA standard 1910.151(c) "Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use."
- OSHA, State OSHA, and other regulatory agencies commonly refer to ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2014 for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment specific guidelines. The standard speaks to placement, temperature, inspections, equipment height, and flow rate. See link in the 'Learn More' for more information.

General Emergency Eyewash/ Safety Shower



Requirements:

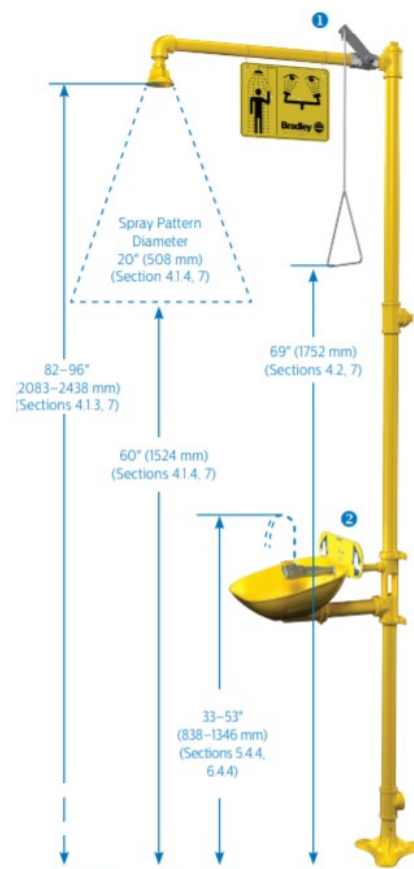
- Safety station must be accessible within 10 seconds of the hazard.
- Safety station must be located on the same level as the hazard and the path of travel shall be free of obstructions.
- All employees subjected to hazardous material exposure should be instructed on the location and proper use of emergency equipment.
- Safety station must deliver tepid flushing fluid between 60 °F and 100 °F.
- Eyewash/facewash equipment must deliver a minimum of 3 gallons per minute of water for 15 minutes. Eyewash only must deliver a minimum of 0.4 gallon per minute.
- Eyewashes and showers are required to be flushed/inspected on a weekly basis.
- Shall be designed so that the flushing flow remains on without the use of the

operator's hands. The valve shall be simple to operate and go from "off" to "on" in one second or less.

- Outlets shall be protected from airborne contaminants.

Recommended Practice for Emergency Eyewash Use

1. In the event of a chemical splash or burn in your eyes proceed immediately to the nearest eyewash station.
2. Push the lever to activate the unit. *If the eyewash is ANSI compliant the unit will stay activated with one single motion.*
3. Begin to flush your eyes. Gently roll your eyes from left to right and up and down to be sure that the fluid is flushing all of the areas of your eye.



4. Continue flushing your eyes for a full 15 minutes as a minimum. Any time less than 15 minutes is not enough time to accomplish dilution of chemical.
5. If you have contact lenses in your eyes, you can gently take them out while you are

flushing. Do not delay the flushing to take out your contact lenses but make sure you do because chemical can be trapped underneath.

6. After you have flushed, see a doctor to determine if anything more needs to be done for the preservation of your vision.

Training

To ensure employees are properly trained, employers should go over the following safety information:

- The locations of all emergency equipment
- What the employee should do in the event of an emergency
- Proper operations of emergency flushing stations

Master Brewers Podcast

Episode 067: In the Blink of an Eye

<http://masterbrewerspodcast.com/067-in-the-blink-of-an-eye>

This podcast covers an event where a brewer got blasted in the face with caustic, he was blinded instantly. This could happen to any brewer. Imagine yourself crawling on the brewery floor, completely blind, in desperate search for a safety shower. What happens in the seconds immediately following an injury like this determines whether or not you'll be blind for the rest of your life. Understanding the risks and being fully prepared for an incident like this greatly increases the odds of regaining your eyesight.

LEARN MORE!

To learn more about emergency eyewashes and safety shower, refer to the following:

- Bradley Quick Compliance Guide: https://www.bradleycorp.com/download/2080/4055_EFX_Quick-Compliance-Guide-Booklet.pdf
- Haws Weekly and Annual Inspection Checklist: https://www.hawsc.com/index.php/downloads/file/id/17624/product/0/ansi_z358_1_2014_checklist_2018_fillable.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BREWERY SAFETY, PLEASE VISIT THE MBAA BREWERY SAFETY WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.mbaa.com/brewresources/brewsafety>