

# Reed College Emergency Eyewash and Shower Testing Program

June 2025



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## 1.0 Purpose and Scope

It is the policy of Reed College to take precautions to eliminate potential hazards in the workplace by maintaining safety eyewashes and showers. This program ensures that these units supply clean, potable water and are in proper working order.

This plan covers all emergency eyewash and shower units at Reed College. Monthly flow rate testing and weekly sanitation testing of the emergency equipment will be documented.

## 2.0 Responsibilities of Positions

### 2.1 Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS)

- Perform monthly showers and weekly eyewash flush to verify proper operation.
- Conduct flow rate testing and compliance assessment for each emergency unit on campus during flush schedule.
- Document all testing and maintain records.
- Provide program oversight.
- Assist in identifying when/where equipment is needed.
- Emergency eyewash and shower testing logs will be maintained by EHS for 3 years.

### 2.2 Facilities Services

- Provide program support and equipment repairs, when needed.
- Assist in identifying when/where equipment is needed.

### 2.3 Occupants of Spaces with Emergency Eyewashes/Showerers

- Know the location of the emergency units in the building and ensure that the emergency units are clear of obstructions.
- Periodically verify that units are being tested as indicated above. Contact EHS if testing is not documented on tags.

## 3.0 Program Components

### 3.1 General Requirements

**Application:** Emergency eyewash and shower units must be installed in work areas where there is high potential for accidents involving corrosive, irritant or toxic substance absorption through skin and eyes.



**Location and Placement:** The emergency eyewash and shower unit must be placed in a location no more than a maximum of 10 seconds travel time for an injured person through an unobstructed pathway. Specific placement requirements are listed below:

**Eyewash and eye/face wash units:** Nozzles must be positioned between 33-45 inches from the floor. Also, a minimum distance of 6 inches from the nearest obstruction is required.

**Drench hose units:** The head of the hose must be placed 33-45 inches from the floor with a clearance of 6 inches from the wall.

**Emergency Showers:** The distance of shower head to the floor must be between 82-96 inches. Actuator height must be no higher than 69 inches from the floor. Also showers must have a clearance of 48 inches along the side and 30 inches across (creating a surface area of 10 square feet around the shower unit).

**Combination Units or Safety Stations:** Refer to the dimensions above for distance and clearance of the eye/face wash and shower units.

**Correction of Deficiencies:** If the emergency unit is not operating to specifications, employees in the area must initiate appropriate action. Notify your supervisor to implement appropriate tagging of the unit as “DO NOT USE”, if applicable. The supervisor must notify Facilities Management for repair or replacement.

## 4.0 Testing by EHS

### 4.1 Eyewash and Eye/Face wash units

#### Weekly Flush Test

- **Visual inspection of the unit.** Look for leaks or pipe damage and proper placement of protective covers. This should be done prior to testing in order to avoid further damage to the unit and risk of injury to users. Ensure that the unit is free of any obstructions.
- **Activate unit.** Ensure that the water flow is continuous, evaluate that the unit can maintain flow for 15 minutes, and is not injurious to the user's eye or face. Valve actuator must activate water flow in one second or less.
  - Valve actuator must stay on unless manually turned off and must activate water flow in one second or less.
  - Controlled flow of flushing fluid must be provided to both eyes simultaneously.
  - The unit must be capable of delivering not less than 0.4 gallons per minute of flushing fluid for 15 minutes.
- **Sanitize water supply through weekly flushing.** In order to relieve the unit of any rust and other pipe build-up, flush the unit until the water runs clear.
- **Document test with dates and initials on eyewash spreadsheet.**



## 4.2 Emergency Showers

### Monthly Flush Test

- **Visual inspection of the unit.** Look for leaks, pipe damage, and proper placement of protective covers. This should be done prior to testing in order to avoid further damage to the unit and risk of injury to users and yourself. Also inspect each shower if they are in compliance with the ANSI Z358.1 requirements. Ensure that the unit is free of any obstructions.
- **Activate unit.** Ensure that the water flow is continuous, evaluate that the unit can maintain flow for 15 minutes.
- Valve actuator must stay on unless manually turned off and must activate water flow in one second or less.
- Controlled flow of flushing fluid must be provided to both eyes simultaneously.
- The unit must be capable of delivering not less than 20 gallons per minute of flushing fluid.
- Sanitize water supply through monthly flushing. In order to relieve the unit of any rust and other pipe build-up, flush the unit until the water runs clear.
- **Document test with dates and initials on unit tag.**
- Let the water run for one minute to collect at least 75.7 liters (20 gallons) of water.

## 4.3 Combination Units (Safety Stations)

- Conduct a separate inspection of the emergency shower and the eye/face wash units.
- Apply procedures for each unit in testing safety stations
- Single documentation will apply to the eyewash and shower combination units.

## 5.0 References

- Medical Services and First Aid, Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.151 (c), (29 CFR 1910.151(c)).
- Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard Z358.1-2014

