

Cal Poly Safety Bulletin-

Monthly Eyewash and Drench Hose Flushing

To ensure a properly-functioning eyewash stations and drench hoses with clean water in the event of an emergency, laboratories must flush their eyewash and drench hose stations monthly.

Regulation: CCR, Title 8, Section 5162- Plumbed eyewash and shower equipment shall be activated at least monthly to flush the line and verify proper operation.

When performing a monthly eyewash flush, check the following:

- ▶ **Caps in place:** Outlets shall be protected from airborne contaminants
- ▶ **Access and signage:** Ensure that the eyewash or drench hose station is easily identifiable and unobstructed. Carts, chairs, glassware and equipment can all obstruct an eyewash station, which may slow the response in the event of an emergency
- ▶ **Operation:** Ensure that the eyewash or drench hose station activates easily with one-handed control; the flow removes eyepiece covers on an eyewash, and water flows evenly and in a steady stream on either device.
- ▶ **Water:** Allow the eyewash or drench hose station to run long enough to flush stagnant water from the line. If this is your first time flushing the station, you may have to run it longer to ensure that the water is clean.
- ▶ **Record:** Record your initials and date of test on the inspection tag. Inspection tags may be obtained from the EH&S office.

Report malfunctioning eyewash/drench hose stations to Facilities, 756-5555 or facserv@calpoly.edu

Helpful hints:

-**Turn on the eyewash slowly.** To avoid a puddle underneath the eyewash, open slowly, then push on all the way.

- **Have a roll of paper towels on hand** in case of water leakage.



If you have questions or if you are unable to flush your eyewash/drench hose station, contact your supervisor, or Environmental Health & Safety.