

Cal Poly Safety Bulletin- Monthly Safety Shower Flushing

Emergency shower units are required in research and instructional areas where personnel may come into contact with hazardous materials. All showers must be inspected monthly to test mechanical function and flow and purged to remove particulate matter from the water line.

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.

Safety showers flushing procedure:

1. Ensure shower is clear of obstructions and easily visible from all directions. 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).
2. When flushing the safety showers, use a 5 gallon bucket or large trash can on wheels and shower water catcher. Note that:
 - The ON/OFF valves must be operational, activated by a single motion
 - Running water should be clear- this may take a few seconds.
3. Turn on shower and flush line for as long as it takes to see that shower is working (flowing) and water runs clear.
4. Flush monthly, and record the flushing date and your initials on the inspection tag hanging from shower and in the departmental Safety Equipment Inspection sheet, if applicable.

If there are issues with access to the shower, contact and notify the P.I. or technical staff member associated with the lab immediately.

If there is flow or operational deficiencies in the safety shower, notify the Facilities Work Center immediately at 756-5555.



Hint: Carry a roll of paper towels to wipe off shower head to avoid a puddle of water underneath.

¹Grainger, a Cal Poly contracted vendor has unit available on their website (Emergency Shower Tester, Cat.# 8ND03)

² See EH&S website under Laboratory Safety to download Laboratory Safety Equipment Inspection Sheet