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

**Safety Showers testing 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, shower water catcher¹ and stopwatch. 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. Testing the safety shower:
   - Note 5 gallon mark on bucket or large trash can
   - Place safety shower net over the entire face of the shower unit
   - Start timer and pull shower valve to let water flow
   - Record seconds it takes to obtain 5 gallons of water and record time in Safety Equipment Inspection sheet². (Recommended flow is 20 gpm)

4. Flush quarterly, and record the flushing date and your initials on the inspection tag hanging from shower and in the departmental Safety Equipment Inspection sheet.

5. Record on departmental Safety Equipment Inspection sheet the flow, cleanliness, and ability to access shower. Initial and date shower inspection tag hanging from unit.

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.

¹Grainger, a Cal Poly contracted vendor has unit available on their website (Emergency Shower Tester, Cat.# 8ND03)
²See EH&S website under Laboratory Safety to download Laboratory Safety Equipment Inspection Sheet