Cal Poly Safety Bulletin-
Weekly 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 weekly.

**Regulation:** ANSI Z358.1-2009 Standard - Plumbed units should be activated long enough on a weekly basis to be sure flushing fluid is provided (Section 6.5.2).

When performing a weekly eyewash flush, check the following:

► **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 for approx. 60 seconds 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.