



# University of New Haven

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Policy Title:**

**UNH Safety Shower &  
Eye Wash Policy**

**Policy No.:** 8208

**Effective Date:** February 4, 2016

**Last Revision:** January 2025

**Responsible Office:** Department of Public Safety

**Responsible Official:** Associate VP of Public Safety & Administrative Services

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## **1.0 Policy Statement**

The University of New Haven has developed an eye wash and safety shower inspection policy in accordance with Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) regulations and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards.

### **1.1 Purpose and Scope**

The University of New Haven has developed an eye wash and safety shower inspection policy and procedures to assure that all safety showers and eye wash stations on the campus are tested on a regular basis.

### **1.2 Review**

The Associate Vice President of Public Safety will review and update this policy whenever necessary or at least annually.

All the elements of this policy are considered University of New Haven policy and may be enforced as such. The failure on the part of the employees to follow the policies and safety requirements of this plan may result in disciplinary action.

## **2.0 Roles and Responsibilities**

### **2.1 Associate Vice President of Public Safety**

- Provide administrative support for this program.
- Review and revise the eye wash and safety shower inspection policy and procedure, as needed for compliance with applicable regulations.

### **2.2 Associate Vice President of Facilities**

- Assure that facility department personnel complete inspections of eye wash and safety showers as outlined by this policy and procedure.
- Ensure deficiencies noted during inspection rounds are corrected in a timely manner.

## **2.3 Director of Facilities**

- Assure that facility department personnel complete inspections of eye wash and safety showers as outlined by this policy and procedure.
- Ensure deficiencies noted during inspection rounds are corrected in a timely manner.

## **2.4 Facility Department Staff**

- Properly complete the eye wash/safety shower inspection checklist as outlined in this policy and procedure.
- Properly document all deficiencies during routine inspection rounds and communicate with the Director of Facilities.

## **3.0 OSHA Regulations**

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), requires within their regulations, as found in 29 CFR 1910.151 (c), that “where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use”.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has established a standard to provide additional guidance on emergency eyewash and shower equipment. The standard, ANSI Z358.1, serves as a guideline for the proper design, certification, performance, installation, use, and maintenance of emergency equipment.

The Department of Public Health requires all BSL-2 laboratories to have an eyewash station readily available and flushed at least once weekly and recorded. BSL-2 laboratories are located within Dodds Hall, Buckman Hall, Charger Plaza, and One Care Lane.

Eyewash stations located in BSL-2 laboratories will be inspected by individuals associated with Environmental Health and Safety or Facilities Department.

## 4.0 Procedure for Eye Wash and Drench Hose Testing

Eyewash stations will be inspected monthly by the Facilities Department at the University of New Haven. The inspector shall complete an inspection form using the IMEC Safety Inspection Program for each eye wash station that will be passed to the Associate Vice President of Public Safety. Eye wash/safety shower inspection forms are kept electronically through the IMEC inspection system. Records are available upon request.

- Eyewashes shall be flushed at full stream for at least thirty (30) seconds or until water runs clear.

An inspection of each eye wash station shall include the following:

- Water flows clear and is not dirty or cloudy
- Unit can be activated in 1 second or less and stays open without assistance
- Water temperature is tepid (<100°F)
- Stream flow is a steady pressure and provides two streams of even height
- Unit is in good physical condition (ex. No leaks, corrosion, or obvious damage)
- Inspections are up-to-date and available on IMEC.
- Dust covers/caps are present on nozzles and kept closed while storing. Covers/caps open easily
- Eyewash station is unobstructed and able to be accessed easily
- Clear signage is posted and visible from work areas indicating the location of emergency equipment

## 5.0 Procedure for Safety Shower Testing

Emergency showers will be inspected on a **monthly** basis by the Facilities Department at the University of New Haven. The inspector shall complete an inspection form using the IMEC Safety Inspection Program for each eye wash station that will be passed to the Associate Vice President of Public Safety. Eye wash/safety shower inspection forms are kept electronically through the IMEC inspection system. Records are available upon request.

- Emergency showers shall be flushed at full stream for at least ten (10) seconds or until water runs clear.

An inspection of each safety shower shall include the following:

- Water flows clear and is not dirty or cloudy

- Unit can be activated in 1 second or less and stays on without assistance
- Water temperature is tepid (<100°F)
- Stream flow is a steady pressure
- Unit is in good physical condition (ex. No leaks, corrosion, or obvious damage)
- Inspections are up-to-date and available on IMEC. Inspection tag detailing record location is present on unit
- Unit is unobstructed and able to be accessed easily
- Clear signage is posted and visible from work areas indicating location of emergency equipment
- Eyewash caps are removed by water flow (and re-capped after inspection)

### 5.1 Water Flow Test

An additional water flow test will be performed on all safety showers on campus on a **semi-annual basis** (twice per year) by the Facilities Department at the University of New Haven. The inspector shall complete an inspection form using IMEC Safety Inspection Program for each safety shower that will be passed to the Associate Vice President of Public Safety. Eye wash/safety shower inspection forms are kept electronically through the IMEC system. These records are available upon request.

### 6.0 Emergency Eyewash Bottles

Eyewash bottles and portable eyewash stations must also be inspected **monthly**. These units **supplement** plumbed and self-contained stations and are intended for temporary use. Eyewash bottles are not required where plumbed eyewashes are maintained and in use.

An inspection of bottled eyewash stations shall include the following:

- The eyewash bottles are full and intact with unbroken seals
- The eyewash bottles are unexpired
- The station and bottle are free from dust, dirt, and leaks
- The station is identified with highly visible signage
- The station is free from obstructions

## **7.0 Inspection Deficiencies and Noncompliance**

All noted deficiencies must be reported to the Associate Vice President of Public Safety and the Manager of Maintenance Operations at the time of discovery. A prominent "Out of Order" sign must be posted on the malfunctioning equipment until it is repaired, directing personnel to the closest alternative emergency equipment shower or eyewash.

## **8.0 Recommended Location of Emergency Eyewashes and Showers**

- Emergency eyewash stations and safety showers shall be located within 10 seconds from the location of a hazard.
- The equipment shall be installed on the same level as the hazard (assessing the equipment should not require going up or down ramps).
- Travel paths to emergency eyewashes and safety showers must always be kept free from obstruction. No fixed or portable equipment shall be stored within a 16" radius of an emergency shower head.
- Students, faculty, and staff should be knowledgeable about the location of all emergency eyewash stations and safety showers within their immediate location when handling hazardous chemicals or waste.
- Location of emergency equipment shall be identified with highly visible signage. Areas surrounding the location of emergency equipment shall be well lit.