



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
AND SAFETY**

SAFETY GUIDELINE
Eye Wash and Safety Shower Inspections

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) mandates that eye washes, drench hoses and safety showers be installed within 10 seconds walking time from the location of a hazard (approximately 55 feet). The equipment must be installed on the same level as the hazard and the path of travel shall be free from obstructions. Items such as trash cans, boxes, laboratory equipment, glassware, chemical bottles, and/or any other stored items **must never block access** to these flushing stations.

ANSI also requires proper maintenance and weekly testing to ensure that eye wash units are functioning safely and properly. Weekly testing helps clear the supply lines of sediment and bacteria build-up that is caused by stagnant water. The ANSI standard states that plumbed flushing equipment "shall be activated weekly for a period long enough to verify operation and ensure that flushing fluid is available". **This is the responsibility of the laboratory to conduct and record each weekly test.**

- [Eyewash Log Sheets](#) are available for laboratory use and should be kept on file within the lab for three years. EHS will review this information during annual lab safety audits.

On an annual basis UNMC Facilities Managements & Planning (FMP) will test eye wash units and safety showers on campus to ensure they meet ANSI standards. If there are obstructions in accessing an eye wash unit or safety shower during the annual FMP test, the following will occur:

- FMP will report the safety concern to Environmental Health & Safety (EHS).
- EHS will enter the violation in the UNMC Hazard Tracking System and assign the item to the appropriate Principal Investigator (PI).
- The PI must clear the space and submit a work order to FMP to have their eyewash unit(s) retested. **All costs associated (approximately \$75) with having FMP retest an eyewash shall be paid for by the PI.** Once the unit has been retested and meets the annual test requirement, the PI shall correct the item accordingly in the Hazard Tracking system and/or contact EHS to notify them that the hazard item has been completed.

EHS will report any laboratories who fail to comply with these standards to the Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR).

For additional information on operation of eye washes and safety showers, please refer to the [UNMC Laboratory Safety Manual](#).

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Please call 402.559.6356 or
email unmcehs@unmc.edu with any questions.



**EMERGENCY EYE WASH
KEEP AREA CLEAR
AT ALL TIMES**