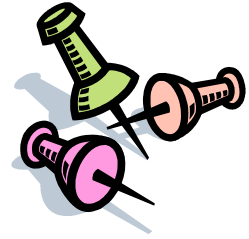




Safety Note

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



Safety Note #34

EYEWASH STATIONS



Research and Extension Centers [RECs] encompass a variety of work environments where eye injuries can potentially occur, including spraying operations, dusty areas, shops, laboratories, and pesticide dispensing areas. REC eyewash stations are located in or adjacent to areas where the eyes of employees [and others] may be exposed to substances that cause corrosion, severe irritation, or permanent tissue damage or which are toxic by absorption.

California Code of Regulations [CCR] Eyewash Station Requirements

- Plumbed or self-contained eyewash equipment that meets the requirements of the American National Standards Institute [ANSI] Z358.1-1981, Sections 5, 7, or 9 shall be provided in work areas where employees' eyes may be exposed to injuries [CCR Title 8, Section 5162 (a)], including:
 1. Eyewash station nozzles shall be protected from airborne contaminants.
 2. Eyewash station protective caps shall not require a separate motion by the operator when activating the unit.
 3. Eyewash stations shall provide enough room to allow eyelids to be held open with the hands while the eyes are in the stream of water.
 4. Eyewash stations shall be identified with a highly-visible sign
 5. All employees that may be exposed to eye injuries shall be instructed in the use of eyewash stations.
- Water hoses, sink faucets, or showers are not acceptable eyewash stations [CCR Title 8, Section 5162 (a)].
- Eyewash stations shall be in accessible locations that remain free of obstructions to their use and require no more than 10 seconds [or a distance of no more than 100 feet] for the injured person to reach [CCR Title 8, Section 5162 (c)].
- Eyewash stations shall provide not less than 3 gpm of water for 15 minutes at a velocity that does not injure the user [CCR Title 8, Section 5162 (d)].
- The eyewash station control valve shall remain on without the use of the injured employee's hands [CCR Title 8, Section 5162 (d)].
- Eyewash stations shall be activated monthly to flush the line and verify proper operation [CCR title 8, Section 5162 (e)].

Emergency Use of Eyewash Stations

- Activate the eyewash station, seek available assistance, and begin flushing the face, eyelid folds, and eyes for at least 15 minutes.
- Hold eyelids open during flushing and roll eyeballs to expose flushing fluid to all possible surfaces of the eyeball.
- After flushing, promptly seek medical attention for tissue damage or exposures to caustic substances.

It is imperative that employees [and others] know the locations and how to properly operate eyewash stations. Always use goggles or face shields to prevent eye injuries.