



EMPIRE
PACIFIC

Risk Management, Inc.

EMERGENCY EYE WASH & DELUGE SHOWERS

Company Name _____ Job Name _____

Let's hope you never need one, but if you do let's hope it's clean and accessible. If you get foreign particles in your eyes or a chemical spill on your body, an emergency eyewash station or deluge shower is the most important initial step in first-aid treatment. Chemical burns to the eye are among the most *urgent* of emergencies.

An eyewash/shower is required if:

- The Material Safety Data Sheet indicates a chemical in use is caustic, toxic, or corrosive.
- The MSDS informs that serious eye damage may result.
- Warnings such as "causes chemical burns" or "causes permanent eye damage" are posted on container labels.

Eyewash/showers in addition must have the following:

- Pure clean water
- Hands free operation
- Constant water flow rate for a full 15 minutes
- Highly visible markings and signs
- Unobstructed access

Accessibility: The single most important treatment for chemically burned eyes is copious irrigation within *seconds* of injury. This means that victims should not have to climb over or around obstacles to find the eyewash station. Make sure there are no barriers to the unit.

Clean, Functional Equipment: Deluge showers should be inspected often to insure they function properly with adequate water flow, and are clean and sanitary. Portable eyewash units are an option in areas where plumbed in water is not accessible or of high enough quality. Portable units also need an anti-bacterial additive to ensure proper water sanitation. Flushing with *any* water is better than none, but purified water reduces potential for secondary eye infections.

5300 SW Meadows Road - Suite 300 - Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035
Phone 503 968-6300 www.empirepac.com Fax 503 968-6305

EMERGENCY EYE WASH & DELUGE SHOWERS (Continued)

Page 2 of 2

Training in Proper Use: Employees who are exposed to possible chemical splashes must know *in advance* how to use an eyewash/deluge station properly:

- Immediately after the accident, flood the eye with water or eyewash solution, using fingers to keep the eye open as wide as possible. Water may be colder than body temperature, which can be uncomfortable, but it is imperative to irrigate for the recommended period of time.
- Roll the eyeball as much as possible, to remove any loose particles retained under the eyelids. Do not put anything except water into the eyes to remove particles.
- The eyes should be irrigated for at least *15 minutes*, and the victim transported to a medical facility immediately. Continue irrigation of eyes during transport. The best way to accomplish this may be to have a portable eyewash system ready that can be carried along.

It's easy to forget about eyewash stations or showers until they are needed in an emergency.

Don't let *yours* become buried or covered with dust. It could save your sight!

Safety Recommendations: _____

Job Specific Topics: _____

M.S.D.S Reviewed: _____

List of Attendees

_____	_____
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