



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

Operating Policy and Procedure

HSCEP OP: 75.18, Emergency Eyewash/Shower and Drench Stations

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) Operating Policy and Procedure (HSCEP OP) is to provide guidance and assistance in the implementation of the various TTUHSC El Paso safety programs.

TTUHSC El Paso is committed to providing its staff with suitable drenching and flushing equipment in areas where there is potential for exposure to hazardous chemicals that would be harmful to the body. This HSCEP OP provides minimum requirements for performance, use, and testing of equipment that is used for emergency drenching and flushing of eyes and body.

REVIEW: This HSCEP OP applies throughout TTUHSC El Paso and off-Site centers and clinics. Contractors will be responsible to provide their own suitable drenching and flushing equipment unless an agreement is made with TTUHSC El Paso beforehand.

This HSCEP OP will be reviewed in March of every even numbered year by the senior director of safety services, with recommendations and revisions forwarded through the managing director of physical plant and support services to the chief operating officer vice president for operations.

PROCEDURE:

I. Definitions

- A. **Combination Unit:** An interconnected assembly of drenching and flushing equipment that is supplied by a continuous water source.
- B. **Hazardous Chemical:** A hazardous chemical for the purpose of this standard practice is a chemical that causes visible destruction, irreversible alterations to living tissue by a chemical action at the site of contact.
- C. **Emergency Shower:** An assembly utilizes a valve that gives a continuous flow of water to enable the user to have water cascade over the entire body while the hands are free.
- D. **Eye/Face Wash:** A device that gives a continuous flow of water to enable the user to irrigate and flush both the face and eyes.
- E. **Hand Held Drench Hose:** A flexible hose connected to a continuous flow of water that enables the user to irrigate eyes, face, and body areas.

II. Responsibilities

A. Department of Safety Services:

- 1. Assist facilities with plan review in the placement of new equipment during new construction and major renovations.
- 2. Test drenching and flushing equipment 2 times per year; every 6 months, and maintain records of such.

3. Conduct periodic audits to ensure that drenching and flushing equipment inspections are occurring on the frequency stated in this standard practice.
4. Provide checklist of inspections upon request.
5. Coordinate training regarding the use and testing of emergency drenching and flushing equipment.

B. Managers/Supervisors

1. Ensure that their personnel are trained on the use and location of emergency drenching and flushing equipment.
2. Ensure that any repair needed for the proper functioning of emergency eyewash equipment is done on a timely manner by submitting work order(s) to the Maintenance Department.
3. Ensure that inspections are conducted as stated in this HSCEP OP.

C. Practice: Affected Individuals

1. Follow the requirement of this standard practice.
2. Utilized appropriate personal protected equipment (PPE) as required for the operation being performed.
3. Use emergency drenching and flushing equipment as trained.
4. Once weekly run water from drench hoses to ensure that water does not stagnate.
5. Report incidents that required the use of emergency drenching and flushing equipment to their supervisor and faculty as soon as the emergency has been brought under control.

III. Testing Procedure for Emergency Eyewash / Shower and Drenching Stations

1. Eyewash testing equipment should include a large 55 gallon container, and a small mop bucket, to be used as water collecting devices. Use of a thermometer, stopwatch and paper towels is also recommended.
2. Inspect emergency eyewash/shower and drenching units for any obstruction. These areas must be free of any obstruction at all times.
3. Test each unit by allowing the water to run for 30 seconds. After 30 seconds, measures the amount of water collected and double the quantity to determine the rate per minute. ANSI requires that there be water flow of 3 gallons per minute (GPM) for eyewash and drenching units. For shower units there needs to be a water flow of 20 GPM.
4. Record the water temperature after each collection test. ANSI standard requires that the temperature fall between 60°F and 100°F.
5. Record findings on emergency eyewash tag.
6. Record findings and keep on file.