

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

EYEWASH STATIONS

Effective Date:	12/01	Policy No:	FA04
Cross Referenced:		Origin:	Environmental Svcs.
Reviewed Date:	11/06, 12/08, 01/11, 10/15	Authority:	Safety Officer
Revised Date:		Page:	1 of 3

PURPOSE

1. Outline Procedures for use of emergency eyewash stations.
2. Procedure for maintenance of eyewash stations.

DEFINITION

Eyewash: a device to irrigate and flush the eyes; must deliver not less than 11 flushing fluid per minute for 15 minutes: to be used where the risk is limited to the face and eyes.

SUPPORTING DATA

1. ANSI Standard Z358.1-2004 provides uniform minimum requirements for eyewash/shower performance, use, installation, maintenance, and training.
2. OSHA Regulation 29 CFR 1910.151.

POLICY

1. Eyewash stations are located in areas where caustic or hazardous substances are present. Examples of such substances include paint solvents, chemicals, battery acid and chemical mixing stations.
2. An eyewash will **NOT** be used for foreign particles in the eye (for example wood dust, metal fillings) as pressure from the spray could lodge such matter into soft tissue around the eye or the eyeball itself.
3. Eyewash stations are not intended to be used for Bloodborne pathogen exposures and **are not** intended to be a substitute for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
4. Eyewash stations will be identified with a highly visible sign and the area **MUST** be bright, well lit, and free of obstructions and projections.
5. The temperature of the flushing fluid must be tepid. (15-32 degrees Celsius/60-95 degrees Fahrenheit).

PROCEDURE:

1. **Operation of the eyewash:**
 - a. Remain calm and see that immediate care is given to the victim.
 - b. Immediately wash eyes with clear water or an approved eyewash fluid for 15 minutes.
 - c. When washing the eyes hold the eyelids open and roll the eyeballs so that the water will flow on the entire surface of the eye and into the surrounding folds. The victim may need aid in holding the eyes open.
 - d. Seek medical aid immediately after flushing the eyes

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2. Maintenance/Log:

- a. Plumbed eyewash equipment must be activated weekly to flush the line and to verify proper operation. The water must be run for a minimum of three (3) minutes
- b. Activation of the water and temperature will be recorded weekly on an eyewash log along with the date and initials of the person performing the testing.
- c. Nozzles on eyewash units will be protected from airborne contaminants.
- d. Checking for valve leakage and clogged openings and lines will be done weekly. Report problems to maintenance department.
- e. Logs must be maintained in the department for three (3) years.

