



School District

Snap Shots



Eye/Facewash and Drench Showers

OSHA regulates eyewash stations in its [1910.151\(c\)](#) standard on medical services and first aid. That standard says, "Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use."



According to State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF) every science room, lab, or shop where students handle materials or chemicals potentially dangerous to human tissue is (to) be provided with a dousing shower, floor drain, and eye wash facilities.

Unfortunately, OSHA does not go into much more detail on eyewashes. However, where the regulations are silent on the details regarding eyewashes and showers, OSHA has referred to the ANSI standard Z358.1 *Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment* for specific requirements. Florida public schools are subject to OSHA requirements.

ANSI Z358.1 recommends that the equipment be inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Z358.1 also states that plumbed units be activated weekly to verify proper operation, and that all eye/face wash units be inspected annually.

Scientists have determined that *Acanthamoebae*, small amoebas capable of causing serious eye infections, have been found in portable and stationary eyewash stations. *Acanthamoebae* are able to survive conventional water-treatment regimens. Extra precautions are needed to rid them from water used to flush traumatized eye tissue. The ANSI standard (Z358.1-2004) recommends that plumbed units be activated weekly to flush lines and to verify proper operation. Weekly flushing for a period of three minutes has proven most effective and is recommended.



Think about it

Science, Vocational,
Custodial, and
Maintenance Staff

"Think Safety
Work Safely"

OSHA
29CFR1910.151(c)
ANSI Z358.1-2004



Idea

While the eyewash cannot be connected directly to the drain, a short flexible hose, temporarily attached, can control and direct the water, minimizing the weekly clean-up.

Highly Visible Sign Required

ANSI Z358.1 requires that emergency showers, eye, and facewashes shall be located within 10 seconds travel time of hazard. Additionally, the units are to be identified with highly visible signs.



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