EMERGENCY SAFETY SHOWER FACT SHEET

Safety showers are necessary protections, whenever the body may be exposed to injurious corrosive chemicals or any chemical hazardous to human skin. A safety shower is considered a first aid measure rather than a preventative one. Proper exposure control methods, including face, hand, and body protection are always required to minimize skin exposure to hazardous chemicals. To provide adequate protection, safety showers need proper use and maintenance. PIs/supervisors need to train all students/employees on the location and proper use of safety showers. Emergency safety shower installations must meet the ANSI Z358.1 guidelines for plumbed and self-contained safety showers.

ANSI – Approved Safety Showers

ANSI-Approved safety shower, in general, is a plumbed or self-contained safety shower that:

a. Delivers low-pressure water at 20 gallons/min for at least 15 minutes.
b. Is within 10-second reach (walking) with a path of travel, that is not obstructed and does not require the opening of doors or passing through obstacles.
c. Uses tepid (lukewarm) water.
d. Has a valve actuator, which is easy to locate and use. User shall be able to use both hands to remove contaminated clothing.
e. Has an actuator leveler that is no higher than 69” from the floor.
f. Shall be identified with a highly visible sign. The area around the facility should be well lighted and highly visible.
g. Is inspected at least annually to ensure proper performance (at NCSU, this is carried out by Facility Operations).

If you believe that your safety shower test log is absent or has not been tested (at least once) in the past year contact your building liaison to request that your shower be tested and the test log be replaced.

Lab responsibilities are to:

a. Instruct all people working in the lab, on the location, proper use and care of the safety shower.
b. Keep safety shower clean, visible, and free from any obstruction.
c. Report any damage or malfunction of the safety shower to Facility Operations.

* For more information please contact Environmental Health and Safety at 513-1282 or email: mahdi_fahim@ncsu.edu