

**NC State University
Environmental Health and Safety Center
Emergency Safety Shower Fact Sheet**

Safety showers are necessary protections whenever body may be exposed to injurious corrosive chemicals or any chemical hazardous to human skin. Safety shower is considered as 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 eyewash station in general is a plumbed or self-contained eyewash 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 free of obstruction.
- c. Has a valve actuator, which is easy to locate/use and **remains activated** until intentionally closed.
- d. Uses tepid (lukeworm) water
- e. Safety shower shall be identified with a highly visible sign. The area around the facility should be well lighted and highly visible.
- f. Is inspected at least annually to ensure proper performance (at NCSU, this is carried out by Facility Operations)



Lab responsibility

- a. Keep the safety shower access clean, visible, and free from any obstruction
- b. Report any damage/malfunction to Facility Operations

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