

# Emergency Eye Wash Test Procedures

At the University of Georgia, you may encounter hazards while working such as: chemical, biological, radiological, etc. Prior to beginning work, become familiar with the locations of emergency eye wash units near your work area and their operation and maintenance. Listed below are instructions for the maintenance of emergency eye wash units.

## **Emergency Eye Wash Weekly Maintenance**

1. Make sure your eye wash location is posted. Postings are available at [www.esd.uga.edu/chem/labpost.htm](http://www.esd.uga.edu/chem/labpost.htm). If you do not have an eye wash in your immediate area, learn the location of the nearest eye wash and ensure that it stays operational and maintained.
2. Make sure the eye wash unit is completely free from obstructions or other potential hazards. It's a good idea to tape off the area around the eye wash unit.
3. Keep electrical devices away from emergency eye wash stations.
4. Eye wash stations need to be flushed weekly. The reason for this is to flush out rust and microorganisms that can build up in these units. Check and make sure the eye wash unit has a drain. If the unit doesn't have a drain, you will need to put something down to collect the water. Turn the eye wash on and flush it for several minutes. Water should flow continuously from both eyepieces. The eye wash should have adequate water pressure to flush both eyes without being harmful to the user. Check and make sure all rust and debris is flushed out of the line.
5. Some eye wash units may be equipped with filters. You will need to check these filters and clean them or have them replaced.
6. If your eye wash station has protective caps, make sure they pop off automatically when the eye wash is turned on. Return the caps to the proper position after flushing.
7. Make sure that the entire eye wash unit is clean and that the unit drains properly.
8. If a repair is needed for the eye wash, contact physical plant at 706-542-7456 or 706-542-0090. Ask to speak to the Work Order Section. Ask the operator if your building falls under building funds. If it does request a repair work order for your eye wash unit.
9. Keep an Eye Wash Test Record for your laboratory. You'll find an empty log sheet at <http://www.esd.uga.edu/chem/labpost.htm>.
10. Verify that Environmental Safety has annually tested your eye wash. The wash station should have a green tag (ok) that has been dated by UGA Environmental Safety Division (ESD) personnel within one year. The eye wash station may also have a yellow tag (caution) or red tag (out of order). Look at the tag to see if it states the reason why it was tagged caution or out of order. It could be many reasons such as: obstructed, electrical hazard, not functioning properly... If you need to have your eyewash tested or have questions about the way it was tagged, contact ESD at 706-542-5801.