It is the policy of Centre College to provide its faculty, staff, students and visitors with the safest working conditions that are practical and reasonably attainable. Therefore, emergency eyewash and shower station are required where there is a reasonable probability of injury that may be addressed by an eyewash and/or shower station. The Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires: “Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive material, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for emergency use.” OSHA also requires that facilities must comply with the provisions of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z-358.1-1990, “Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment,” with the following exceptions:

1. “In remote areas where a person is visibly and audibly separated from co-workers, an audible or visible alarm shall activate to alert appropriate personnel when the unit is in use; or in the alternative, a two-way communication device shall be used. The alarm shall continue until the unit is no longer in use.

2. “The requirement that such facilities be tested according to the standard shall be changed from weekly to monthly.”

**EYE WASH STATION REQUIREMENTS**

- Eyewash stations should provide a soft stream of water not less than 11.4 Liters (3.0 gallons) per minute for at least fifteen minutes.
- Eyewash stations should allow the person to hold eyelids open with the hands while the eyes are in the stream of water. They eyewash must irrigate and flush both eyes simultaneously while the operator holds the eyes open. The on-off valve must be activated in one second or less and must remain on without the use of the operator’s hands until intentionally turned off.
- Chemical splashes may impair vision, so laboratory workers should memorize the location of all eyewash stations in their area.
- Eyewash stations should be located by a highly visible sign.
- The water temperature must be at a comfortable range 15°C-35°C.

**EMERGENCY SHOWER REQUIREMENTS**

- The valve shall be designed so the water flow remains on without requiring the use of the operator’s hands. The valve shall remain on until intentionally turned off.
- The emergency shower must deliver water to cascade over the user’s entire body at a minimum flow rate of thirty gallons or 113.6 liters per minute for fifteen minutes or more.
- The area should be free of obstruction and require no more than ten seconds or 100 feet to reach.
- All workers should know how to use and the location of all safety showers in their area.
- After the shower is used, the victim should remove contaminated clothing, put on dry clothes and seek medical attention if necessary.
- Emergency showers should be located by a highly visible sign.
- The water temperature must be at a comfortable range 15°C-35°C.
• Emergency showers should be capable of delivering a minimum of 113.6 liters per minute or 130 gallons per minute at a velocity low enough not to be injurious to the user.
• Emergency shower chain should be a maximum 69 inches or 175.3 cm from the floor.

HANDHELD DRENCH HOSE REQUIREMENTS

• Handheld drench hoses are single-headed emergency washing devices connected to flexible hose and can be used to irrigate and flush the face or other parts of the body.
• They must deliver at least three gallons (11.4 liters per minute) of water per minute for fifteen minutes or more.
• The area should be free of obstructions and require no more than 10 seconds to reach.
• Handheld drench hose is NOT a substitute for safety shower/eyewash station.
• Must be simple to operate and shall go from “off” to “on” in one second or less.
• Identified by a highly visible sign.
• The water temperature must be at a at a comfortable range 15˚C-35˚C.

INSPECTIONS

Monthly eyewash and shower inspections should be performed as follows:

• Ensure access is unobstructed.
• Verify protective eyewash covers are properly positioned, clean and intact.
• Check that the eyewash bowl and spouts are clean and free of trash.
• Place bucket under the drain of the shower and flush the water for several minutes.
• Check that the flow is continuous for the eyewash station.
• Verify that protective eyewash covers cone off when activated.
• Check that the water drains from the bowl.
• Document the inspection date and initial.
• Each eyewash, shower not passing inspection or requiring repair must adequately warn employees and students working in the area that the emergency flushing station is not in service.
• Report any problems to the Chemical Hygiene Officer.
• Facilities Management, Chemical Hygiene Officer, and the affected department must be notified of an emergency shower and/or eyewash is rendered non-functional because of maintenance or repair.
• Verify that proper visible signs are present.

USE OF EMERGENCY EYEWASH AND SHOWER

• In the event that an eyewash/safety shower is used, the affected area should be flushed for 15 minutes. Water does not neutralize contaminants it only dilutes and washes them away. This is why large amounts of water are needed.
• Seek medical attention and notify supervisory personnel of the incident.
• Use the emergency shower if is a large spill to the body.
• An incident report form must be filled out and sent to the Director of Laboratory Resources and Safety.