

TML\MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	<b>Policy # MI\LS\26\v02</b>	Page 1 of 2
Section: <b>Laboratory Safety Manual</b>	Subject Title: <b>Emergency Wash Facilities</b>	
Issued by: <b>LABORATORY MANAGER</b>	Original Date: April 20, 2001	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date: October 22, 2003	

**Policy:**

Staff should be trained and familiar with what actions should be taken in the event of accidental exposure to potentially hazardous materials.

**Purpose:**

To reduce the possibility of personal injury.

**Key Elements :**

- Eyewash facilities
- Emergency showers

**Related Documents:**

<a href="#"><u>REPORTING WORK RELATED INCIDENTS</u></a>	MI\LS\31\v01
<a href="#"><u>WORKPLACE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION</u></a>	MI\LS\32\v01

**Procedure:**

<b>Eyewash Facilities</b>	<p><b>Know location of eyewash facilities and how to use them</b></p> <p>If eye protection fails, go to eyewash facility:</p> <p><b>Eyewash fountain (preferred)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press handle to activate. Plastic covers will pop off.</li> <li>• <b>Wash eyes / face continuously for 15 min</b>, to prevent serious damage to the eyes.</li> </ul>
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<b>Eyewash Facilities</b>	<p><b>Eyewash station (Sterile Isotonic Eyewash Solution)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove bottle from station and twist off cap, break seal.</li> <li>• Hold a few inches above eye or affected body area and flush as needed. Control flow rate by pressure on bottle.</li> <li>• Move to eyewash fountain and continue flushing eyes / face or continue flushing with bottles from other eyewash stations.</li> <li>• <b>Wash eyes / face continuously for 15 min</b>, to prevent serious damage to the eyes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Seek medical attention immediately thereafter.</b></p> <p>Eyewash fountains are at designated laboratory sinks. They are located near potentially hazardous areas. They must be inspected once weekly and documented. If possible, eyewash fountains should be plumbed with tepid water.</p> <p>Eyewash stations with Sterile Isotonic Eyewash Solution are at other locations in the laboratory at TML St. Patrick Site. They contain 1 L bottles of sterile isotonic eyewash solution. They must be inspected with respect to unbroken seal and expiration date. Replace at expiration date. Do not reuse. Once opened, discard. Do not use if seal is broken. Contents - A colorless solution containing dibasic sodium phosphate, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate monobasic preserved with disodium EDTA and benzalkonium chloride.</p>
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<b>Emergency showers</b>	<p>Know locations of emergency showers and how to use them. Every laboratory must be equipped with or have ready access to a safety shower. They are located near potentially hazardous areas.</p> <p>In case of chemical burns, go to nearest shower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For ceiling shower, pull handle to activate.</li> <li>• For hand-held shower, pull out and press handle to activate.</li> <li>• <b>Shower, washing affected areas, for 15 min.</b></li> <li>• <b>Seek medical attention immediately thereafter.</b></li> </ul> <p>Ceiling shower must be inspected twice per year and documented</p> <p>Hand-held showers must be inspected once weekly and documented</p>
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