Many areas across MUSC are equipped with emergency eyewashes and/or showers. This equipment is designed to be used by employees when a splash to the eye(s) or bodily contamination occurs. In order to ensure that the equipment is properly functioning during an emergency, eyewashes and showers require regular testing and maintenance.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFF:**
- Identify locations of emergency eyewashes/showers in your area
- Understand how to use the eyewash/shower
- Keep eyewash and shower areas clean and free of obstructions
- Perform a weekly test of eyewashes (see left sidebar)
  - **NOTE:** STAFF SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO TEST EMERGENCY SHOWERS.
- Maintain a log documenting weekly eyewash tests
- Sign and date log after performing weekly eyewash test
- Report any malfunction, missing parts, or problems to Facilities

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF FACILITIES AND ENGINEERING:**
- Perform detailed quarterly tests of eyewashes and safety showers
- Maintain database documenting quarterly eyewash tests
- Sign and date tag after performing quarterly test
- Fix any malfunctioning or broken eyewashes/showers

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH:**
- Perform risk assessment of areas working with hazardous materials
- Determine where emergency eyewashes/showers are necessary
- Provide resources and training materials to help staff compliance
- Coordinate with Facilities for installation, removal or repairs

**SAFETY TIP:** Weekly eyewash tests help keep you safe in emergencies.
Performing a 3 minute weekly test not only helps you identify if the eyewash is broken or malfunctioning, but it also flushes out the line to prevent build-up of rusty/dirty water and microbial contamination.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

In the event of a splash to the eye(s):
1. Proceed to nearest eyewash.
2. Push or pull eyewash lever to activate water flow.
3. Flush eyes for a minimum of 15 minutes.
4. Proceed to Employee Health Services or the Emergency Room (after hours).

In the event of full body contamination:
1. Proceed to nearest shower.
2. Pull chain or lever to activate water flow.
3. Use shower for a minimum of 15 minutes.
4. Proceed to Employee Health Services or the Emergency Room (after hours).

If you do not have access to an eyewash and/or emergency shower and think that you should, contact Occupational Safety and Health Programs at 843-792-3604 to perform a hazard evaluation.

**How to Perform a Weekly Eyewash Test:**

1. Visually inspect eyewash for any missing parts (i.e. caps, nozzles, etc.).
2. Activate the eyewash by pulling or pushing the lever.
3. Run eyewash for at least 3 minutes. Check to ensure flow of water is adequate, temperature of water is moderate, and note any malfunction.
4. Sign and date weekly log.
5. Report any problems to the Facility Support Center at 2-5600.