Chapter 53: Chemical Safety

Emergency Eyewash / Shower Use Procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to minimize harm to workers from accidental exposures to chemicals and other hazardous materials. It covers the use of emergency eyewash and shower stations. It applies to workers (as chemical workers).

In the event of chemical self-contamination, follow these steps:

1. Do not panic.
2. Shout for help to allow co-workers to assist and call for medical assistance.
3. Flush the affected area of the body immediately for a minimum of 15 minutes.
4. For chemical spills to the eyes, hold eyes open as wide as possible to permit the eyewash water to reach all areas around the eye.
5. If possible, move both eyes back-and-forth during washing, to flush the maximum of eye surface.

**Warning** Recognize that both eyes move together, so do not leave the uninjured eye open or uncovered. If a protective dressing is used, do not apply pressure over the eyes.

**Warning** Eyewash stations should not be used following injury with a known metal or similarly rigid solid fragment. In this event, seek immediate medical attention.

6. If clothing is contaminated, remove while under the shower.
7. Shut off water:
   - For eyewashes, pull push plate or foot plate back.
   - For showers, push valve actuator back.
8. Seek medical attention immediately.
   - If medical emergency, call 911, then call SLAC Site Security (ext. 5555 or 650-926-5555 from a cell phone), and your supervisor.
   - If non-emergency, contact SLAC Site Security (ext. 5555 or 650-926-5555 from a cell phone), and your supervisor.
9. If you are not transported directly to an emergency room from the scene of the exposure, report immediately to the Occupational Health Center.
10. See Chemical Safety: Accidental Exposure Requirements (SLAC-I-730-0A09S-041) for additional details.

This document should be attached to each emergency eyewash/shower station to supplement worker training. (See Chemical Safety: Emergency Eyewash/Shower Requirements [SLAC-I-730-0A09S-043].)