

# ShopTalk

## Emergency Wash Stations



**What will we do today to prevent an incident?**

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### Emergency Wash Stations

Emergency wash stations can be either specific to eye and face wash equipment or combination washing (shower). They are used when a worker is exposed to a hazardous material.

### What's the hazard?

Dusts, chemicals, or other hazardous materials may lead to the need to use of an eye or face wash equipment or shower. Certain chemicals, if left on the skin or eyes can cause severe burns, while dusts or debris can get lodged in the eye leading to visual impairment. Chemical hazards, for example, can lead to permanent impairment if not treated immediately and with the appropriate equipment.

### What can happen?

Sam works as a housekeeper. Sam was pouring cleaner into a mop pail when he accidentally splashed the chemical into his eye. Sam immediately felt a burning sensation in the left eye and it started to water profusely. He immediately went to the nearby eye wash station, started it and proceeded to keep his eyes over the stream of water.

**Based on the scenario above, here are some questions that could be used to spark discussion:**

1. How could this have been avoided?
2. Are you aware of the safe work procedure and the need for an eye wash station?
3. How often does a wash station have to be inspected?
4. How many wash stations are needed in my workplace?

### What precautions can be taken to prevent chemicals causing injury?

To help prevent injury from contact with hazardous chemicals, the following should be considered:

- Always wear the posted PPE. For example, goggles are often used when working with/around chemicals.
- Ensure the wash stations are maintained and inspected annually as per the manufacturer's instruction.
- Ensure hazards are clearly identified and workers are aware of how to operate the wash station.
- Ensure the eye wash station can provide tepid water as per ANSI/ISEA Standard Z358.1-2014, American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment.
- Ensure that the eye wash stations and shower equipment can be reached within 10 seconds (ANSI).
- Ensure there are no hazards in the way of getting to the eye wash and shower equipment.

### Other resources:

Some additional resources on emergency wash stations include [the ANSI/ISEA Standard Z358.1-2014 \(American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment\)](#), [Eye Safety Checklist](#), and [Bulletin 104: Emergency Washing Equipment](#).

### Share your ideas!

If you have an idea for Shop Talk that you think others would benefit from, we'd like to hear about it. Email us: [information@safeworkmanitoba.ca](mailto:information@safeworkmanitoba.ca).

### For more information:

Visit [safemanitoba.com](http://safemanitoba.com) or call 204-957-SAFE (7233) or toll-free 1-855-957-SAFE (7233).

