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ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL
UTILITIES

TOOLBOX TALK

Eyewash/Drench Station Care

1910.151(c) states: ***"Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use."***

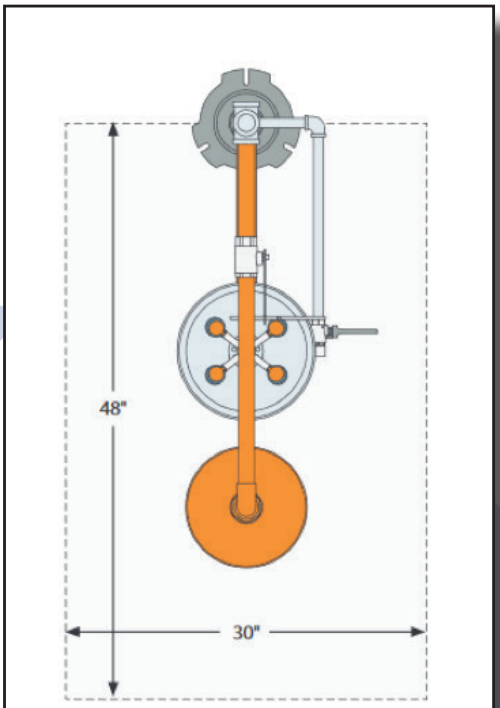
ANSI Z358.1-2014 provides

Install the eyewash/drench station within 10 seconds (approximately 55 feet) of hazard, on the same level as the hazard and with an unobstructed travel path. A door or steps are each considered obstructions.

The valve should easily activate with one motion in a second or less and remain open on its own until it is intentionally turned off. The station must deliver a minimum of tepid flushing fluid of .4 GPM at 30 PSI for 15 minutes. Tepid is defined in the standard, as "A flushing fluid temperature conducive to promoting a minimum 15-minute
irrigation period. A suitable range is 60–100°F." Fluid above 100°F can cause a chemical reaction that makes the burn worse while the lower temperature can cause a victim to suffer from hypothermia.

Make sure to activate plumbed eyewash/drench units weekly for a period long enough to verify operation and ensure that an adequate amount of flushing fluids is available and that the chance of contamination from dirty fluid is eliminated.

Employees must be properly trained in the use and care of eyewash/drench units.



Minimum clear floor space requirements for forward approach (top view)

Eyewash bottles that do not provide the 15 minutes of irrigation are only considered to be used to support the victim until they reach an appropriate eyewash/drench unit.