Weekly Eyewash Flushing

To ensure a properly-functioning eyewash station with clean water in the event of an emergency, laboratories must flush their eyewash station weekly. When performing a weekly eyewash flush, check the following:

► **Access and signage:** Ensure that the eyewash station is easily identifiable and unobstructed. Carts, chairs, glassware and equipment can all obstruct an eyewash station, which may slow the response in the event of an emergency. If you have to use an eyewash station in an emergency you won’t be able to see very well!

► **Operation:** Ensure that the eyewash station activates easily with one-handed control, the flow removes eyepiece covers, and water flows evenly and in a steady stream.

► **Water:** Allow the eyewash station to run for 1-3 minutes to flush stagnant water from the line. If this is your first time flushing the station, you may have to run it longer to ensure that the water is clean.


**Helpful hints:**

- **Make sure you know where the water drains!** Often a bucket or a tray has to be positioned under the unit’s drain to collect the water.

- **Have a roll of paper towels on hand** in case of water leakage.

- **A large tray may be needed to collect the water** under units that pull down from the wall to activate.

If you have questions or if you are unable to flush your eyewash station, contact your laboratory’s assigned Research Safety Specialist or Environmental Health & Safety.

Environmental Health & Safety
Charles River Campus: 353-4094
Medical Campus: 638-8830
Web: http://www.bu.edu/EHS