

# Emergency Deluge Shower Protocol

## 1. Definition:

- a. Deluge showers are required by law in areas where a person may be at risk for injury as a result of contact with a biological or chemical substance. Accidental exposure to such hazards can cause severe injury; use of an emergency safety showers aims to mitigate injury to the skin due to contact with a harmful substance. Showers must be accessible and tested regularly (weekly check to ensure a clear path, and annually by an independent contractor) to ensure they are in proper working order.
- b. For additional information on eyewash requirements, refer to the Environmental Health & Safety Eyewash and Shower Equipment Standard.

## 2. Responsibility:

- Managers, or Supervisors or Principal Investigators shall:
  - Ensure that all workers are informed about the proper operation of the deluge showers.
  - Maintain the deluge stations: annual testing and other maintenance as required.

## 3. Equipment:

- a. Laboratory deluge shower locations:
  - Rooms 1445, 1446, and in the open wet lab between rooms 1443/1444, 1453/1454, and 1463/1464.

## 4. Procedures:

- a. Using the deluge shower:
  - Open water supply fully by firmly pulling down on shower handle.
  - Stand in the water stream.
  - Remain under the water stream, and remove all contaminated clothing (typically undergarments would not be contaminated), ensuring that water is flushing all areas exposed to the hazardous substance.
  - Have a co-worker call for appropriate medical attention.
  - Remain under the shower and continue to rinse until the time specified by the substance's MSDS has been reached. If necessary, have a co-worker look up the appropriate duration and then time you.
- b. Inspection of the deluge shower:
  - Ensure that the path to the shower is easily accessible and in no way obstructed. Remember that an injured person would be in distress and may have to access the unit with eyes closed.
  - Showers will be inspected annually (flow and temperature) by an independent contractor.
  - Report problems to [admin.tbep@utoronto.ca](mailto:admin.tbep@utoronto.ca).

Note: The deluge showers should also be inspected annually by Environmental Health and Safety.

**5. References:**

- a. <https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Emergency-Eyewash-and-Shower-Std.pdf>
- b. <https://ehs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Eyewash-and-Shower-Needs-Assessment-Flowchart.pdf>