## **Emergency Wash Stations Stats and Facts**



## **FACTS**

## Common causes for emergency showers and eyewashes malfunction

- 1. Improperly installed or missing dust covers.
- 2. Lack of proper signage on the equipment or lack of acceptable lighting.
- 3. Providing the improper equipment for the application.
- 4. Obstructions in the path of travel to a shower and/or eyewash.
- 5. Incorrect placement or assembly could result in an inadequate emergency response.
- 6. Parts of a unit, such as the pull rod or push flag, in a dysfunctional, non-usable state.
- 7. Lack of flow control to the eye or eye/face wash including erratic, inconsistent or unpredictable water flow.
- 8. With not enough water pressure or flow, the eye, eye/face wash and/or shower can be considered unusable and may not provide proper flushing capabilities to a user.
- 9. The eyewash is not capable of providing flushing fluid to both eyes simultaneously.
- 10. Many times, the showerhead is not in alignment with the eye or eye/face wash and vice versa.
- 11. The most common reason for non-compliance is the inability of the equipment to maintain required flow rates when both the shower and the eye/face wash are activated at the same time.

## **STATS**

- The need for emergency eyewash and shower devices is real. 15,110 U.S. workers were afflicted by chemical exposures in 2010, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- Recent research has shown that, on average, up to 78% of emergency showers and eyewash equipment in the typical facility is not working correctly and is non-compliant, but most importantly, not capable of providing proper first aid.
- A study reported that when an emergency rinsing station is used, deep-tissue burns from acids are reduced from 63 % to 12.5 %. The number of days in the hospital reduce from 20.5 to 7.5.
- Non-compliance with emergency eyewash safety standards is a serious issue in today's workplace. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), this lack of compliance contributes to a reported 2,000

injured U.S. workers each day. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that eye injuries lead to 37,000 missed days of work and more than \$300 million per year in related costs.