



Toolbox Talk: Eyewash Stations and First Aid Kits: Inspections and Placement

Introduction/Overview:

Proper location and maintenance of eyewash stations can save an employee's eyesight in the case of chemical exposure. The duration of contact and the chemical determines the severity of damage done to the eye. The quicker the chemical can be removed or diluted, the less damage that will occur. If the eyewash station is not functioning correctly or not easily accessible, blindness may be the outcome.

A well-stocked first-aid kit could be the difference between a minor injury and severe blood loss leading to death.

According to WebMD, chemical burns represent 7%-10% of all eye injuries.

Slowing or stopping bleeding is paramount in a workplace injury. In the case of a severe injury, a person can bleed to death in less than [five minutes](#).

Talking Points:

OSHA/VOSH requires [Eyewash Stations](#) in workplaces where hazardous materials are in use:

- Must be located within ten seconds (approx. 55 feet) from the hazard
- No obstruction between eyewash station and hazard
- The surrounding area must be well-lit
- Highly visible signage must mark the location
- Both eyes must be washed simultaneously
- Spray heads must be protected from airborne contaminants with covers that are removed by the water flow
- Water flow must be at least 0.4 gallons of water per minute for 15 minutes
- Hands-free stay-open valves
- Activate weekly for 1-3 minutes to flush stale water

OSHA does not require first aid kits for general industry. However, 29 CFR 1910.151(b) states, "Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available." An [ANSI Z308.1-2015](#) Class A kit will work for most agencies.

Class A first aid kits contain:

- 16 Adhesive bandages, 1 x 3 inches

Developed by:

- 1 Adhesive tape, 2.5 yds (total)
- 10 Antibiotic applications, 1/57oz.
- 10 Antiseptic, 1/57 oz.
- 1 Breathing barrier
- 1 Burn dressing (gel soaked), 4 x 4 inches
- 10 Burn treatments, 1/32 oz.
- 1 Cold pack, 4 x 5 in.
- 2 Eye coverings with means of attachment, 2.9 sq inches
- 1 Eye/Skin wash, 1 fl. Oz.
- 1 First aid guide
- 6 Hand sanitizers, 1 32 oz.
- 2 pairs of medical exam gloves
- 1 Roller bandage, 2 in. x 4 yd.
- 2 Sterile pads, 3 x 3 inches
- 2 Trauma pads, 5 x 9 in
- 1 Triangular bandage, 40 x 40 x 56 in

Conduct a risk assessment of the work area to determine first aid kit needs. Once you have kits in place, they must be maintained. Remove and replace expired items and those with torn or soiled wrappers. Replenish supplies after use.

Additional Discussion Notes:

Final Thoughts:

Being prepared for a workplace emergency requires planning and training. Having supplies and equipment are great, but you need to be trained appropriately. Take a first aid course and be prepared to help.

NOTE: Always promote discussion with the attendees. If a question comes up that no one in attendance can answer, please contact OWC or the Loss Control Innovations consultants for assistance.

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