Pembina Trails School Division *Accomplish Anything*	**SAFE WORK PROCEDURE**	**Emergency Eyewash Station** Page 1 of 3

LOCATION	WRITTEN BY:	APPROVED BY:	DATE CREATED	LAST REVISION
All Schools	L. Carriere	Safety Committee	March 15, 2013	July 7, 2017

HAZARDS PRESENT	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
• Hazardous chemicals • Splash to eye • Flying debris	• none	• Equipment Orientation

SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

PROCEDURE:

1. Assess the work area for caustic chemical hazards and ensure that the eyewash equipment is properly place as close to the hazardous chemicals as possible for worker protection.

2. The eyewash station should be reachable within 10 seconds from where the hazards are located and must be unobstructed and readily accessible.

3. **Plumbed eyewash station**: Push or pull the hands free stay open valve paddle to activate the eyewash station

   Portable Self Contained 15 min Eyewash Stations: pull down the yellow section on the front to activate the eyewash station.

   Eyewash Bottles: are not considered eyewash stations.
   Eyewash bottles are intended to supplement ANSI approved plumbed or self-contained eyewash stations, but in no way can replace them. Eyewash bottles supply immediate flushing; however, the user must proceed immediately to either an ANSI approved plumbed or self-contained station, for appropriate flushing duration.

4. Simultaneously Immerse both eyes into the flowing water for at least 15 minutes (or as required by the chemical's MSDS sheet.

5. Keep your eyelids open by using your hands to ensure adequate flushing of the eyes.

6. If wearing contact lenses, do not remove len(s) until after the eye(s) has been flushed continuously for five (5) minutes, then recommence flushing continuously for another ten (10) minutes.

7. Call for help and have someone drive your to the hospital or seek medical attention from your doctor. Note: you must bring the MSDS with you to your doctor or the hospital.

Please note: the emergency eye wash station is only for first aid. It is not medical treatment for chemical exposures. Ensure that you seek proper medical attention. It is important to inform the physician what you were exposed to and be able to show them the MSDS sheet for the chemical.

An eyewash station should **NOT** be considered for foreign particles in the eye (e.g. wood dust, metal filings) as pressure from the spray could lodge such matter into the soft tissue around the eye or the eyeball itself.

Where should the eyewash station be located?
To be effective, the eyewash station has to be unobstructed and readily accessible. They must be available near areas where corrosive chemicals are used. It is recommended a user be able to reach the station in no more than ten (10) seconds (while probably vision impaired). Ideally, the station should be within ten (10) feet of the hazard in question. The location should be a well-lit area away from electrical sources and identified with a highly visible sign. Suggested locations include:

- Science preparation rooms
- Areas where corrosives are used (e.g. boiler rooms)
- Chemical storage and mixing areas
- Visual arts
- Boiler Rooms
- Construction Technology and Automotive shops

If using a combination of eyewash bottles and a plumbed or self-contained eyewash station, the plumbed or self-contained station should be centrally located within the facility.

Can a self-contained station or an eyewash bottle be filled with tap water?
Eyewash bottles cannot supply enough fluid to adequately dilute and wash away contaminants and therefore need only be filled with tap water. However the water must be changed on a weekly basis and the inspection tag must be initialed and dated. Tap water may not provide the best flushing solution as it may contain contaminants such as chlorine that could aggravate the injured body part.

A self-contained eyewash station is required to contain water plus a commercially available eyewash solution. The preservatives in the eye wash solution help to clean tap water to control bacteria level and extend the life of the water. These units must have the water changed every six months and the inspection tag must be initialed and dated at the time of the water change.

Inspections & Maintenance:
Regular inspections and maintenance is essential to ensure that the eyewash stations are always read for use. Dependent upon the type of station used, the inspection and maintenance needs will vary. Specific staff should be assigned responsibility for inspecting and routine maintenance of facility eyewash stations. All inspections and weekly activation must be dated and initialed on the station inspection tag or other convenient method.

Plumbed Eyewash Station:

- Each station must be inspected monthly to check for leaks, obstruction to flow/access, or damaged parts.
- The water may contain contaminants such as rust, scale and chemicals. Systems should be **flushed and cleaned weekly**. Allow to run for at least two minutes until water runs clear. Note: the intent is to ensure that there is a flushing fluid supply at the head of the device and to clear the supply line of any sediment build-up that could prevent fluid from being delivered to the head of the device and minimize microbial contamination due to sitting water.
- Each plumbed station should receive an annual maintenance inspection.

Self-Contained Eyewash Station:

- These units can be large and bulky so the use of plain tap water is not a practical option. Tap water treated with an added **preservative must be used** to reduce the frequency of water changes needed.
- Solutions containing water preservative should be **changed every 6 months** or following manufacturer's recommendations.

- Each station should receive annual maintenance consisting of dismantling the equipment and thoroughly inspecting and cleaning it.

Personal Eyewash Bottles

- Eyewash bottles filled with plain tap water must be completely drained, cleaned, rinsed and refilled on a **weekly basis**. A bottle brush can be used for cleaning. The bottles should also be inspected for cracks, leaks, obstructions, etc.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Regulations M.R. 217/2006
  - Part 2 Subsection 2.1 (a – c) Safe Work Procedures
  - Part 35 WHMIS
  - Part 36 Chemical & Biological Substances
  - Part 21 Emergency Washing Facilities
- ANSI Standard Z358.1-04 American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash & Shower Equipment