St. John's Regional Fire Department
Policy and Operational Guidelines

Title: 02-02-12	Protocol for Testing Plumbed Eyewash/Deluge Stations
Document Type:	Operational Guideline
Status:	
Issued By:	Administration
Index:	02 Employee Resources
Section:	02 Health and Safety
Title:	12 Protocol for Testing Plumbed Eyewash/Deluge Stations

Purpose

To outline the protocol for weekly testing of plumbed, fixed, emergency eyewash-deluge stations in fire stations so equipped.

Background

Emergency eyewash stations and safety showers must be operational and in good repair at any given time to offer first response decontamination to the eyes, face and body. Routine checks are a key element to ensuring the proper function of the eyewash station and shower. The importance of these checks is to engage the mixing valves, verify the availability of the flushing fluid after prolonged activation through the system, and check for proper water temperature and pressure. Furthermore, frequent activation of the eyewashes and showers will assist in clearing the supply line of sediments caused by still or sitting water that can lead to microbial contamination within the plumbed lines. Equally important is the verification of adequate access to eliminate barriers, for example temporary storage of other equipment, directly in front of the eyewashes and showers. Emergency showers should be checked for proper clearance/access and visible signs of equipment damage on a regular basis. Testing of eyewash stations should be performed on no less than a weekly basis, but may be performed more frequently if warranted by the workplace hazard.

This is a new Policy.

Procedure

The following steps outline the requirements for the Weekly Emergency Eyewash plumbed station inspections and check:

1. Station Officers will delegate a responsible person for inspecting and operating/activating the emergency eyewash station weekly.

2. Personnel will either deactivate the alarm or wear supplied hearing protection.

3. Weekly checks should include activating the eyewash for approximately 3-5 minutes.

4. Upon activation, nozzle covers should automatically disengage from the nozzle.

5. The water should begin to flow from both nozzles within 1 second with equal pressure.

6. The temperature should reach a tepid range within the first minute.

7. The eyewash should remain active until the lever is released or the handle is returned to the shut off position.

8. The eyewash station should be unobstructed and easily accessed.

The following steps outline the requirements for the Weekly Emergency Shower inspection:

1. Emergency showers should be checked for proper access and visible signs of equipment damage.

2. Personnel will either deactivate the alarm or wear supplied hearing protection.

3. The shower should be activated for 3-5 minutes.

4. The water should begin to flow from the shower head within 1 second and with adequate pressure.

5. The temperature should reach a tepid range within the first minute.

6. The shower should remain active until the lever is released or the handle is returned to the shut off position.

If there are any deficiencies noted, the Station Officer will contact the on-duty Platoon Chief to have the repair requests submitted.

Approvals
Fire Chief/Director

Approval Date
2018/01/29

Responsibility
St. John's Regional Fire Department

POG #02-02-12
Approved by:

Jerry F. Peach — Date: Jan 29/2018

Jerry F. Peach
Fire Chief
Director of Regional Fire and Emergency Services

Appendix/Appendices
None