


## Emergency Eye Care

# Reduce injuries

The ANSI standard requires emergency drench showers and eyewashes at construction sites to be accessible and operable year-round. Are your customers properly equipped with the equipment to keep their jobsites safe?

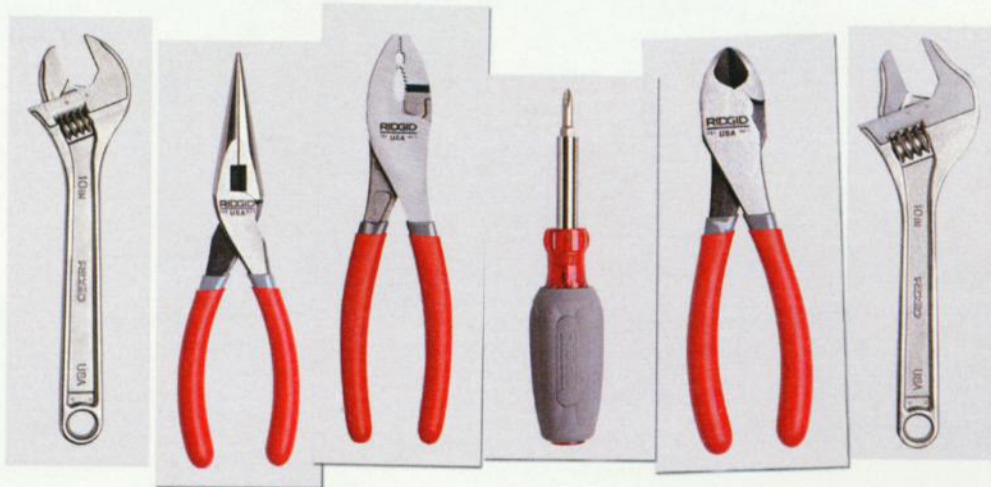


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While OSHA has not officially adopted the 2004 American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Z358.1 emergency standard, OSHA generally refers to it as a guide for the selection and installation of eyewashes and drench showers.

As distributors and rental professionals, it is important to educate your customers about the new regulations and make them aware of available safety equipment options that both meet safety standards and are adaptable to construction sites, regardless of the size and duration of the project, and the extremes of their climate.

### Unplumbed sites

Manufacturers offer a variety of portable emergency-protection equipment that can be used as a backup to PPE.

Bottle eyewashes are designed as a first line of defense and are to be used before a worker can reach an eyewash station. These products have a slim profile and can be mounted or stored within easy reach of any hazard. The worker simply pulls the bottle from the station, removes the cap and flushes the affected area.

Portable eyewash stations, which provide a complete flush, are available in a variety of models. Gravity-fed portable eye-

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washes are easy to fill, assemble and transport.

### Drench hoses, portable pressurized tanks

Drench hoses are hand-held units that serve as an eye and face wash. Note that drench hoses must be installed in a fixed location. They must be capable of being activated with one step and remain flowing until they are shut off. If drench hoses are not installed following these ANSI requirements, they are classified as supplemental products only.

Another ANSI-approved option for unplumbed sites are portable pressurized tanks. These are filled with flushing fluid and pressurized to provide the required volume and flow duration. But it is important to specify ANSI-compliant units. Smaller units do not qualify and may only be used as supplemental emergency equipment.

### Plumbed solutions

Drench showers offer emergency aid when a worker's skin is exposed to chemical hazards or burns. Showers may also be combined with eyewashes or eye/face wash combinations. It may be necessary to supply both water and electricity to the unit, to ensure the tepid water temperature is maintained.

### Deep freeze

The ANSI Z358.1 standard requires that any emergency fixture installed where the potential for freezing exists should be protected from freezing, or freeze-protected equipment should be installed.

### Frost-proof units

Traditional frost-proof units are available in two configurations — through-wall fixtures and fixtures with buried incoming supply pipes.

### Other solutions

Heat-traced fixtures have a heat-trace cable

wrapped around the piping, which regulates the temperature of the water inside the fixture to prevent freezing or overheating. The pipes are insulated with polyethylene foam, and the entire fixture is wrapped in ABS plastic with the seams sealed for maximum weather protection. Most units offer a freeze-protection valve and generally cost more.

Although polar showers are the most costly option, they are usually configured as a combination shower and eyewash in a heated, insulated enclosure, often with a local tempered water supply. A user is protected from outside conditions when activating the shower or eyewash.

Work together with safety experts and product manufac-

turers to help your customers identify potential work-site hazards. By serving as an emergency equipment resource you will build stronger partnerships with your customers.

*By Rebecca Geissler, a product manager for emergency fixtures at Bradley Corp.*

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