

KAM-rule 34 Fire hose reels, emergency showers, eye wash facilities and decontamination shower systems

Contents

Introduction	2
Fire hose reels	2
Emergency showers and eye wash facilities	3
(Mobile) decontamination shower systems	3
Reporting	4

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Introduction

Fire hose reels, emergency showers, eye wash facilities and decontamination shower systems are mains water systems that can (or may have) a low user frequency. The water quality in these systems can deteriorate due to long periods of downtime, and in particular the long feeder pipes. This KAM-rule describes the measures for the safe use of fire hose reels, emergency showers, eye wash facilities and decontamination shower systems.

Purpose and target group

The purpose of this KAM-rule is the proper handling of fire hoses, emergency showers, eye wash facilities and decontamination shower systems. The KAM-rule is intended for all employees and third parties at the Utrecht Science Park Bilthoven (USPB).

Responsibilities

Poonawalla Science Park B.V. (PSP):

- Installation of water pipes in accordance with the Building Decree and NEN 1006+A1:2018 standard.
- Commissioning and overseeing the annual inspection of the sealing of fire hose reels.
- (let) perform management and installation measures and recording these measures in the forms used.
- Have the emergency showers tested outside the laboratory and production areas every year for operation and flow.

User:

- Requests for changes to existing water pipes and / or construction of new pipes to PSP.

Location manager (often the room-/laboratory administrators of the organisations at the USPB):

- Flush eye wash facilities in laboratory and production areas at least once every four weeks and keep a log book.
- Test emergency showers in the laboratory and production areas. This can, on request, be performed by PSP.

All employees at the USPB:

- Reporting the absence of fire hose reel sealing. (See paragraph Reporting the absence of a fire hose reel seal.)
- Reporting the use of a fire hose reel, emergency shower or eye wash facility. (See paragraph Reporting use of fire hose reel, emergency shower or eye wash facility.)

Fire hose reels

A fire hose reel is an emergency facility because of which the user frequency is very low. Fire hose reels are sealed at the USPB. PSP commission the fire hose reels to be checked and maintained annually, whereby the sealing is checked each time. These measures contribute to the prevention of the improper use of fire hose reels, i.e. for purposes other than fire extinguishing.

Emergency showers and eye wash facilities

Emergency showers and eye wash facilities are also emergency facilities with a low user frequency.

An **emergency shower** is typically used for extinguishing burning clothing, cooling burnt skin or rinsing off chemicals that have been spilt on clothing and skin. Reporting to take place in accordance with paragraph Reporting use of fire hose reel, emergency shower or eye wash facility).

Eyewash facilities are used to flush contaminants and chemicals from the eyes. Contaminants like rust and lime particles can form in stagnant tap water. These particles can damage the eyes when using the eye wash facility. Rinse eye wash facilities at least once every four weeks, so that the accumulation of contaminants of, for example, rust and lime particles, is limited.

Important: *The primary function of an emergency shower or eye wash facility is to cool down burns and for rinsing after contact with chemicals. The use of the facilities for these purposes takes precedence over the risks of possible contamination. Emergency showers or eye wash facilities should therefore never be closed off!*

Emergency Showers and eye wash facilities must be tested and reviewed against the standards (NEN-EN 15154-1:2006 Emergency safety showers, Part 1: Plumbed-in body showers for laboratories, Part 2: Plumbed-in eye wash units.)

Testing emergency showers

PSP annually tests the operation of the emergency showers outside the laboratory and production areas. On request PSP can also perform annual tests on the emergency showers in laboratory and production areas.

The emergency showers must be tested according to and reviewed against the standards that apply to those specific showers. When testing emergency showers, place a hood over the emergency shower that has a drainpipe running to the drain in the floor or one that is large enough to collect all of the flushed water. Wear respiratory protection if such a measure is not possible, i.e.: half mask or full-face mask with the designation P3. The mask must comply with the EN149: 2001+A1:2009 standard.

Emergency showers and eye wash facilities are not sealed after testing. Sealing emergency showers and eye wash facilities has no added value for the safe use of these facilities.

(Mobile) decontamination shower systems

The use of (mobile) decontamination shower systems is usually associated with occasional work with specific risks.

(Mobile) decontamination shower systems are used for cleaning clothing and bodies by rinsing out contaminants, such as chemicals, (micro) biological substances or asbestos (for asbestos workers).

Most decontamination showers are designed as mobile systems. After use, the shower is disassembled and stored. The water is drained.

Decontamination shower systems are usually used intensively during occasional work, which makes the flow of water good. In holiday periods, however, when the work has not yet been completed, a long standstill of water can occur. The main control measure is therefore to drain the system prior to a long period of downtime.

The use of storage tanks can also result in stagnation of water. In combination with heating due to external factors, the user should be aware of a rapidly deteriorating water quality. In this situation too, draining the system prior to a long period of downtime is the most important measure.

In the event of an incident/emergency at the USPB, a (mobile) decontamination shower system is available via external emergency services.

Reporting

Reporting the absence of a fire hose reel seal

Employees who notice that a seal has been broken or have broken a seal themselves must report this immediately to the PSP Service Centre. PSP will ensure that the fire hose reels are quickly sealed.

Reporting use of fire hose reel, emergency shower or eye wash facility

- A fire hose reel may only be used in the event of a fire. Following use this must be reported to the PSP Service centre.
- Immediately afterwards, report the incident for which the fire hose reel, emergency shower or eye wash facility was used, in accordance with your organisation's internal procedure, and if there is a (near) environmental incident at the Stichting AL-terrein via [KAM-rule 15m Reporting of \(near\) environmental incidents](#).