



DECEMBER 8 — Check Your Shower

Description	Corrective Action
<p>He was working on replacing some Sulfuric Acid piping. He was suited up in chemical gear. I asked him if he or his partner had tested the safty shower, as it had been worked on the day before, and should be tested before work was performed. He said that he had not tested it. I instructed them to test the shower before continuing.</p>	<p>Told them to test the the safty shower before continuing.</p>

The crew geared up to break sulfuric lines — a job where one mistake can tattoo you forever — but no one tested the emergency shower. Overconfidence whispered, “It always works,” and complacency nodded along. But safety equipment doesn’t magically fix itself. If it’s cold, clogged, or broken, that failure waits for the moment you need it most.

When acids bite and dangers rise,
A working shower guards your eyes.
Test it first—don’t ever guess—
One quick check can spare distress.

Not testing the shower before acid work is like not checking your smoke alarm batteries. You’ll only find out it failed when your life depends on it.

Hazards

- Delayed decontamination
- Severe chemical burns
- Eye damage/blindness

Stats

- Acid burns worsen **30% every 30 seconds** without rinsing
- **40%** of facilities find shower failures during emergencies
- Thousands of corrosive injuries occur annually

Words of Wisdom

Emergency eyewash and shower use must be *verified before work begins*.

If the shower doesn’t run, neither will you — you’ll be too busy screaming.

Pause and Think:

When you’ve done something a hundred times, the brain starts skipping steps, ignoring hazards, and assuming nothing will go wrong. Overconfident workers take shortcuts, rely on memory instead of procedure, and stop scanning their environment because they “already know how this goes.” Overconfidence blinds you to changes, hides warning signs, and puts you in situations where one small surprise becomes a major injury.

- When’s the last time YOU personally checked a safety device before trusting it?
- What does overconfidence look like on a busy day?
- Which emergency equipment should we test more often?