

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I

DEFINITION

Under supervision, assists with and learns to conduct sanitary inspections and investigations in the enforcement of Federal, State, County, and local environmental health, safety, and hazardous materials laws, rules, regulations, and standards; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry and first working level in the Environmental Health Specialist class series. Incumbents in this class are Environmental Health Specialist Trainees and learn to conduct a broad array of education, inspection and enforcement activities in all environmental health program areas. Incumbents must be eligible to obtain State Registration as an Environmental Health Specialist within 18 months of initial employment. After attaining registration, meeting the experience requirement and demonstrating sound work habits, they are eligible for promotion to Environmental Health Specialist II.

REPORTS TO

Director of Environmental Health

CLASSIFICATIONS DIRECTLY SUPERVISED

None

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EXAMPLES OF DUTIES

- The Environmental Health Specialist I position is designed to enable incumbents to be trained and qualify for state registration while working under close supervision.
- The incumbent assists with and learns to conduct investigations and tasks in all environmental health program areas including: food and consumer protection, sewage disposal and liquid waste management, housing and institutions, land use, recreational health, water supply protection, solid waste management, public nuisances, hazardous materials management, underground storage tanks, vector and rabies control.
- Typical duties may include; performs food facility inspections.
- Conducts investigations of public or private sanitation-related nuisances or complaints.
- Makes inspections of public and private recreational facilities and swimming pools.
- Makes housing inspections to determine health and safety compliance with appropriate laws and standards.
- Takes water, sewage, soil, and waste samples and interprets data.
- Explains environmental health laws and regulations to the public.
- Reviews plans for new subdivisions and recommends suitable water and sewage installations.
- Reviews and recommends changes in building plans to comply with Environmental Health regulations and standards.
- Conducts on-site evaluations of sewage disposal systems.
- Conducts hazardous materials storage, treatment, disposal, reduction, and reuse inspections.
- Works with various environmental health committees.
- Makes abatement recommendations and instructs communities in control methods.

TYPICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Sit for extended periods; frequently stand and walk; crawl through various areas on hands and knees; stand, walk, or crouch on narrow and slippery surfaces; climb ladders, stairs, and scaffolding; normal manual dexterity and eye-hand coordination; lift and move object weighing up to 25 pounds; corrected hearing and vision to normal range; verbal communication; use of office equipment including computers, telephones, calculators, copiers, and FAX.

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TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is usually performed in both an indoor and outdoor environment; some work is performed in varying temperature and humidity; exposure to high levels of noise; some exposure to dust; continuous contact with staff and the public.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Chemical, biological, physical, and environmental sciences.
- Basic principles and practices of environmental health and hazardous waste inspection, review, compliance, consultation and enforcement.
- Sampling techniques and standards.
- Computerized Environmental Health database and information systems.
- Principles and practices of quality customer service.

Ability to:

- Assist with and learn to perform a variety of environmental health and hazardous waste investigations and inspections.
- Collect, analyze, and interpret environmental data, reaching valid conclusions.
- Read, interpret and apply policies, regulations, and procedures regarding environmental health inspections and compliance.
- Prepare a variety of technical reports.
- Provide instruction, guidance, and consultation in correction of environmental health problems and unsanitary conditions.
- Operate a variety of office equipment and computers in the performance of environmental health inspections and investigations.
- Effectively represent Environmental Health in contacts with the public, and other agencies.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships.

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Training and Experience:

Qualifications needed for this position:

Equivalent to graduation from a four (4) year college or university with a major in biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, or a closely related field.

Some previous experience performing or assisting with environmental investigations and inspections is highly desirable.

Special Requirements: Possession of valid letter of eligibility for employment as an Environmental Health Trainee from the State Department of Health Services.

Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Drivers License by the time of appointment. The valid California License must be maintained throughout employment.

Some positions may require special training and/or certification as necessary for the area of assignment.

Special Requirements: Must possess a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid California Driver's License by the time of appointment. The valid California License must be maintained throughout employment.

All County of Plumas employees are designated Disaster Service Workers through State law (California Government Code Section 3100-3109). Employment with Plumas County requires the affirmation of a loyalty oath to this effect. Employees are Required to complete all Disaster Service Work related training as assigned, and to return to work as ordered in the event of an emergency.