

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I

County of Tulare

DEFINITION

To conduct inspections and investigations in the enforcement of environmental quality control and public health laws and regulations.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is an entry level position for those who possess a bachelor's degree, but do not possess the experience or additional educational requirements necessary for registration. Incumbents will assist registered Environmental Health Specialists and perform increasingly independent work of a routine nature. An incumbent known as an environmental health specialist trainee may be employed to work under the supervision of a registered environmental health specialist, until he or she is qualified by examination as provided under Section 106625.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Supervision is provided by an Environmental Health Supervisor or higher-level department staff. Functional or lead supervision may be provided by an Environmental Health Specialist III.

DUTIES

Conduct inspections of food handling and industrial establishments, water supply systems, sewage disposal systems, lead, solid waste disposal sites, organized camps, schools and public buildings, recreational and bathing facilities, underground storage tank systems, biomedical waste management, and air pollution sources to ensure compliance with state and local laws and regulations governing environmental quality control.

Recommend changes and provide instructions for correction of deficiencies.

Note violations and secure voluntary compliance.

Issue written notices of violation or take steps to initiate legal action to enforce compliance.

Collect food, water, air, soil, and effluent samples for laboratory analysis.

Investigate violations and complaints regarding insect, rodent, animal and other public health nuisances.

Check for violations of agricultural and open burning regulations.

Instruct, educate, and make recommendations to individuals and groups in methods of control and effectively communicate the principles of a safe and healthy environment.

Review and approve permits, building plans, and specifications of water, sewage, pool, underground tank control systems, emergency response plans and procedures, and waste handling systems.

Gather, organize, and analyze information.

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Prepare reports and correspondence.

Maintain files on inspections and investigations.

Manage the investigation of food and vector borne disease.

Use and maintain a variety of scientific precision measuring instruments.

Interpret laws and regulations, and act as a resource person for private and public agencies.

Keep records, prepare reports, and participate in special studies and surveys.

Essential job duties may be assigned that are not listed above but are relative to this job classification. (Reasonable accommodation will be made when requested and determined by the County to be appropriate under applicable law.)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum qualifications are used as a guide for establishing the education, training, experience, special skills and/or license which are required and equivalent to the following.

Knowledge of:

- General principles of environmental quality control, sanitation and public health.
- Principles and practices relating to safe food production, processing, and handling.
- Principles of chemistry, biology, microbiology, and environmental health sciences.
- Advanced math including algebra, geometry, and statistical analysis.
- Proper sampling procedures for laboratory analysis.
- Relevant scientific and technical terminology.
- Safety practices of the industry.

Skill/Ability to:

- Work and communicate effectively with people of various education and socioeconomic backgrounds by respecting beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes and behaviors of both clients and co-workers.
- Operate contemporary office equipment inclusive of computer, keyboard, and all applicable electronic equipment.
- Read, interpret, and apply laws, rules, regulations, and technical documents.
- Detect unsanitary conditions and public health hazards.
- Analyze situations accurately and take effective action.
- Use patience, tact, and courtesy to deal with people under various circumstances.
- Write clear, concise, grammatically correct reports, memos, and letters.
- Give and follow complex verbal and written instructions.
- Make scale drawings and plot plans.
- Determine alternative solutions to complex problems and select the most appropriate solution.
- Coordinate work with others.
- Adjust to changes in workload.
- Establish priorities and meet deadlines within a fast-paced work environment. Perform duties under stressful conditions.

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- Maintain confidentiality.
- Read and understand operational and mechanical procedures of source sampling equipment.
- Work outdoors.
- Communicate and explain technical and legal terms to people from various educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Work a flexible schedule including evening, overnight, and weekend hours.
- Complete multiple priority projects with strict deadlines.
- Maintain confidentiality of patient/client information.

Education:

- Bachelor's degree in environmental health or related fields of science; or possess alternate qualifications per Title 17, Article 1, Section 7941 of the California Administrative Code.

License or Certificate

- Possession of a letter from the State Department of Health Services, Office of Local Environmental Health Programs, stating that the applicant is capable of meeting minimum standards and is qualified by examination as provided under Section 106625
- Certificate of registration as an Environmental Health Specialist issued by the California State Department of Health Services under Sections 106600-106735 of the California Health and Safety Code is a condition of employment in this classification. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in separation from county employment.
- Possession of or ability to obtain an appropriate, valid California driver's license.
- Incumbents assigned to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Program will be required to obtain the International Code Council (ICC) Certification within 12 months of their date of hire.
- Incumbents assigned to the CUPA Program will be required to obtain the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) certificate within 12 months of their date of hire.

DESIREABLE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

License or Certificate

- ICC; Lead inspector assessor; Vector; Certified Pool Operator (CPO)

[Environmental Hlth Spec I] Job Code: 020710, Res: 03-0440, Updated: 06/03/2003

[Environmental Hlth Spec I] Job Code: 020710, Res: Res: 2022-0270, Updated: 04/10/2022

[Environmental Hlth Spec I] Job Code: 020710, Res: Res: XXXX-XXXX, Updated: XX/XX/XXXX

Supplemental Information

Overtime Status: Eligible

Probation: One (1) year

BU: 06