



Class Code: 5-1192
FLSA: Non-Exempt
EEO: 4
Bargaining Unit: 5
Revised: 10/2020

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST, SENIOR

DEFINITION

Under general direction, conducts sanitary inspections and investigations in the enforcement of federal, state, county, and local environmental health, safety, and hazardous materials laws, rules, regulations, and standards; assists with program development and improvement; and performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the fully experienced, advanced journey level in the Environmental Health Specialist series. Incumbents are Registered Environmental Health Specialists and conduct investigations in a broad range of Environmental Health areas on an independent basis. In addition, incumbents in this class are expected to participate in program development and improvement of existing programs. They may also provide some work coordination and direction for other Environmental Health Specialists and Environmental Health Technicians.

This class is distinguished from Environmental Health Specialist II by the performance of a broader range of more complex work, as well as the assignment of lead and work coordination responsibilities when necessary. Incumbents are subject to shift work as assigned, including days, evenings, weekends, and holidays. Standby duty is also required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives immediate or general supervision from the assigned supervisor. Exercises no direct supervision over staff. May provide technical and functional direction to assigned staff.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Class specifications are intended to present a descriptive list of the scope of duties performed by employees in this class and are not intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.

- Conducts the full scope of inspections and performs the most complex work to secure compliance with federal, state, and local sanitation laws and regulations governing food handling establishments, sewage disposal systems, substandard housing, land use, swimming pools, recreational health facilities, water supply systems, solid waste management, public nuisances, toxic/hazardous waste materials, zoning, underground storage tanks, and other areas.
- Recommends changes and provides instruction for deficiency and violation corrections.
- Advises food handlers and restaurant operators on correct sanitation methods.
- Conducts special investigations in response to public complaints.
- Conducts investigations of insect nuisances or infestations.
- Works with solid waste issues and problems, including illegal garbage dumping.
- 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.
- Inspects facilities to minimize future health threats.
- Takes water, soil, and waste samples.
- Interprets environmental health laws and regulations for the public.

- Conducts on-site inspections to ensure suitable water and sewage facilities.
- Conducts on-site evaluations of sewage disposal systems.
- Conducts studies and evaluates information regarding underground storage tanks and other hazardous materials storage, treatment, disposal, reduction, and reuse.
- Completes reports of findings.
- Initiates non-compliance legal actions, filing criminal complaints in court, or scheduling an administrative hearing, as appropriate.
- Develops abatement recommendations for environmental health problems.
- Issues permits for wells, food handling establishments, septic systems, and hazardous and medical waste facilities.
- Develops and writes technical reports.
- Prepares correspondence regarding a variety of issues.
- Participates as needed in program planning, development, and implementation.
- Trains and supervises other Environmental Health Specialists and Technicians.
- Assist in disaster recovery, including site safety assessments during disaster, generally wildfires, occasionally floods, and provide environmental health presence at the local disaster recovery center.
- May be assigned lead direction and work coordination responsibilities for other staff.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Policies and procedures of the Environmental Health Division and the Health Services Department.
- Program development and implementation principles.
- Laws, rules, regulations, requirements, and procedures governing environmental health inspection and enforcement.
- Chemical, biological, physical, and environmental sciences.
- Principles and practices of environmental health, including inspection, review, compliance, and consultation methods and practices.
- Functions and operations of state and federal environmental health agencies.
- Sampling techniques and standards.
- Computers and software used in environmental inspections and investigations.
- Proper English spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Applicable business equipment and software applications.

Ability to:

- Perform a variety of environmental health and hazardous waste investigations, inspections, and enforcement.
- Collect, analyze, and interpret environmental data, reaching valid conclusions.
- Read and interpret and apply policies, regulations, and procedures regarding environmental health inspections and compliance.
- Prepare a variety of technical reports.
- Perform research and analytical work.
- Operate a variety of office and technical equipment and computers in the performance of environmental health inspections and investigations.
- Provide instruction, guidance, and consultation on environmental problems.
- Effectively represent the Environmental Health Division of the Health Services Department in contacts with the public, other county staff, and other government agencies.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

- Regularly work well under pressure, meeting critical deadlines.
- Utilize a computer, relevant software applications, and/or other equipment as assigned.
- Constantly demonstrate cooperative behavior with colleagues, supervisors, customers, clients, and the public.

Licensing and Certifications:

Possession of, or ability to obtain, an appropriate valid California Driver's License.

Possession of a valid Environmental Health registration issued by the State Department of Public Health.

Basic Life Support and CPR certification.

FEMA Emergence Training ICS 100-200.

Education and Experience:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, or a closely related field.

AND

Two (2) years of experience as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist performing a variety of environmental investigations and inspections.

Additional directly related experience and/or education may be substituted.

WORKING CONDITIONS, ADA, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The County of Lake is an equal opportunity employer. The County of Lake will comply with its obligations under the law to provide equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with disabilities.

Positions in this class typically require: sitting, stooping, kneeling, crouching, reaching, standing, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, fingering, grasping, talking, hearing, seeing, and repetitive motions.

Sedentary Work: Exerting up to 10 pounds of force occasionally and/or a negligible amount of force frequently or constantly to lift, carry, push, pull or otherwise move objects. Sedentary work involves sitting most of the time. Jobs are sedentary if walking and standing are required only occasionally and all other sedentary criteria are met.

Light Work: Exerting up to 25 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 10 pounds of force frequently, and/or a negligible amount of force constantly to move objects. If the use of arm and/or leg controls requires exertion of forces greater than that for Sedentary Work and the worker sits most of the time, the job is rated for light work.

Medium Work: Exerting up to 50 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 25 pounds of force frequently, and/or up to 10 pounds of force constantly to move objects.

Heavy Work: Exerting 50 to 100 pounds of force occasionally, and/or 20 to 50 pounds of force frequently, and/or 10 to 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects.

Very Heavy Work: Exerting in excess of 100 pounds of force occasionally, and/or in excess of 50 pounds of force frequently, and/or in excess of 20 pounds of force constantly to move objects.

Employees work primarily in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions and occasionally in the field where they may be exposed to inclement weather. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

Incumbents generally work outside of a typical office environment and may be exposed to extreme temperatures, loud noise, fumes, noxious odors, dust, mist, gases, and poor ventilation; underground, confined, or restricted workspaces.

Positions in this class may require local and statewide travel as necessary.

Disaster Service Workers: As members of the County of Lake Emergency Services Organization, all County of Lake employees are designated as Disaster Service Workers during a proclaimed emergency and may be required to perform certain emergency services at the direction of the department/county.

The contents of this class specification shall not be construed to constitute any expressed or implied warranty or guarantee, nor shall it constitute a contract of employment. The County of Lake assumes no responsibility beyond the general accuracy of the document, nor does it assume responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information contained herein. The contents of this specification may be modified or revoked without notice. Terms and conditions of employment are determined through a “meet and confer” process and are subject to the Memorandum of Understanding currently in effect.