

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Performs a variety of technical work to support environmental health and safety programs, such as collecting and consolidating hazardous materials/wastes that are potentially dangerous or harmful to human health or the environment; and performing or assisting others with basic site inspections and investigations.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Collects, consolidates, and transports hazardous materials/wastes.
Ensures that weekly inspections of Schools Hazardous Waste Collection, Consolidation, and Accumulation Facility (SHWCCAF) are documented for compliance with hazardous waste and hazardous materials regulations.
Coordinates with hazardous waste transporters for hazardous waste shipment from SHWCCAF, school sites and proposed school sites including weighing container, ensuring correct labeling, and reviewing and signing manifests and land disposal restriction forms.
Takes sampling of waste materials to determine whether they are hazardous.
Ensure SHWCCAF meet requirements of Permit by Rule.
Prepares, modifies, and updates simple reports.
May assist with and perform basic field work (e.g., site inspections, audits, and investigations) related to occupational health and safety, environmental assessment, or compliance.
May assist with and perform basic field tests using direct reading instruments (e.g., multi-gas meters and noise dosimeters) to determine the presence of harmful materials.
May assist with and respond to basic emergency calls related to chemical spills, fires, or other hazardous materials/conditions and takes appropriate action as directed.
Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

An Environmental Health & Safety Technician performs duties as assigned by their supervisor such as consolidating hazardous materials/wastes; and assists with field work including site investigations and report generation.

An Environmental Health Supervisor supervises and directs the activities related to various environmental health and safety programs including but not limited to accident prevention, industrial hygiene, asbestos, lead, construction, chemical evaluation, environmental compliance, and waste management.

An Environmental Health Specialist performs environmental health and safety investigations, surveys, and audits; performs standardized sample collection; and prepares written reports and correspondence.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from an Environmental Health Supervisor or Environmental Health Manager. Work direction is received from an Environmental Safety Officer or Environmental Health Specialist.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Hazardous waste and materials handling
Environmental health and safety regulations (e.g., Environmental Protection Agency EPA), California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), California Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).
Scientific principles of sample collection and data analysis/interpretation for various media (e.g., air, water, and soil)
Integrated sampling equipment and direct-reading instruments
Microsoft Word, Excel, and direct-read instrument software

Ability to:

Apply established policies, rules, regulations, and procedures relevant to environmental health and safety activities.
Perform repetitive, routine work
Think critically and use good judgment in recognizing when to take action or to defer to others as appropriate
Assemble, calibrate, and utilize integrated sampling equipment, and direct-reading instruments
Operate a computer and associated peripheral equipment

Special Physical Requirements:

Perform work while wearing personal protective equipment, such as respirators and protective clothing
Normal color vision
Ability to stand, walk, bend, crawl, reach overhead, crouch, kneel, balance, push, pull and safely lift and carry items weighing up to 50 pounds
Ability to maneuver in narrow spaces (e.g., attics and crawl spaces)
Ability to do physical work under conditions involving temperature extremes

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or evidence of equivalent educational proficiency and 12 semester or 18 quarter units of college coursework in basic sciences such as biology, chemistry, physiology or a closely related field. Course work in Environmental Health, Occupational Health, or Hazardous Waste Management is preferable. An additional year of qualifying experience may be substituted for the required college coursework provided that the requirement of a high school diploma or equivalent is met.

Experience:

One year of experience in collecting, consolidating, and transporting hazardous materials/wastes. Experience in performing environmental health and safety monitoring and sampling is preferable. Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor's degree in environmental and occupational health, industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety, environmental engineering, or a closely related field may substitute for the required experience.

Special:

A valid driver's license to legally operate a motor vehicle in the State of California and the use of a motor vehicle

SPECIAL NOTES

Requires wearing a negative pressure respirator.

Employment is subject to medical clearance.

Positions in this classification are subject to pertinent provisions of the General Industry Safety Orders of the California Code of Regulations regarding protective equipment when exposed to hazardous materials including, but not limited to, asbestos or lead.

Employees in this class may be subject to call at any hour.

The class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Entrance requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill, and /or abilities. To the extent permitted by relevant law, management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time, as long as such addition or change is reasonably related to existing duties.

Revised
08-17-23
BM

Updated
01-22-25
Transportation
Language Only