

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

The following class specification is intended to represent only the key areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the business needs of the department.

DEPARTMENT: Health

REPORTS TO: Senior Environmental Health Program Specialist

CLASS SUMMARY

Protects public health by inspecting institutions to ensure compliance with public health regulations.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Environmental Health Specialist is the first level of a three level environmental health series. The Environmental Health Specialist is distinguished from the Environmental Health Programs Specialist which is responsible for reviewing blueprints and construction sites to verify compliance with state and local rules.

TYPICAL CLASS ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Conducts onsite inspections to include examining facilities and equipment; collecting samples and performing laboratory tests; interpreting and applying appropriate regulations; and issuing appropriate ratings and permits.
- Responds to reports of violations, which includes conducting investigations; preparing written reports; issuing necessary citations; and conducting follow-up monitoring.
- Performs public relations duties by responding to inquiries from the public and preparing and presenting educational programs.
- Maintains required certification by participating in continuing education programs and seminars.
- Responds to natural disasters, which includes inspecting facilities; evaluating damage to permitted establishments; and assessing sanitary conditions in emergency shelters.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.
- Performs work during emergency/disaster situations.

POSITION SPECIFIC DUTIES

Vector Control:

- Maintains mosquito monitoring stations;
- Applies mosquito control chemical agents;
- Inspects swimming pools.

Soil and Water:

- Evaluates wastewater treatment and disposal system design;
- Approves construction of potable wells;
- Performs periodic scheduled maintenance inspections of wastewater systems.

Institutional Sanitation:

- Inspect health care facilities, food service establishments, institutions, child care facilities, and swimming pools;
- Investigates reports of foodborne illness.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Knowledge of:

- Basic public health concepts;
- Indoor air quality and OSHA standards;
- Techniques for gathering data and interpreting results;
- Federal, state, and local environmental and public health laws;
- General soil science concepts;
- Food science and foodborne illness topics;
- Techniques for wastewater treatment and well construction;
- Principles and techniques for mosquito eradication.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

Skill in:

- Providing customer service;
- Interpreting and applying regulations;
- Reading maps, architectural drawings and schematics;
- Interpreting scientific data;
- Testing water and food samples;
- Using a computer and related software applications;
- Preparing and making presentations;
- Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Health, Environmental Epidemiology, Food Sciences, Microbiology, Entomology, or related field, including 30 semester hours in the physical or biological sciences and two years of related environmental health sanitation experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above.

LICENSING/CERTIFICATION

- Registered Sanitarian Certification;
- Valid NC Driver's License;
- NC Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources (DEHNR) authorizations in area of assignment.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS/WORKING CONDITIONS

Typically requires crouching, reaching, standing, walking, pushing, pulling, lifting, fingering, grasping, feeling, talking, hearing, seeing and repetitive motions.

Light Work: Exerting up to 20 pounds of force occasionally, and/or up to 10 pounds of force frequently, and/or 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.

May be subjected to odors, chemicals, and travel.

GENERAL INFORMATION

FLSA Status: Non-exempt

Class Spec Established/Revised: E10/99; R11/02