

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I/II****DEFINITION**

Under close supervision (I) to general direction (II), conducts inspections, investigations and surveys to enforce State and local environmental health laws and regulations in an assigned district or specialty area in the following services: Consumer Health Protection, Environmental Health Review, Drinking Water Protection, Hazardous Materials Management, Solid Waste Management, and Recycling & Resource Recovery; performs related work as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

The Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) I is the non-Registered entry/trainee level of the EHS series that performs many of the duties of the Registered EHS II, under the immediate supervision and training of senior and journey level EHS staff. Incumbents are provided with progressively responsible on-the-job training and field experience required to qualify for State registration.

The Environmental Health Specialist II is the journey work level of the EHS series, with incumbents performing general environmental health inspections and enforcement actions with relative independence from supervision.

This class is distinguished from the next higher level of Environmental Health Specialist III in that the latter is responsible for highly technical program segments or specialty areas, and/or serves as lead worker in a district office.

**EXAMPLE OF DUTIES**

1. Conducts inspections, complaint investigations surveys and special studies to determine compliance with State and local health codes and regulations or compliance with waste reduction and recycling mandates; processes permit applications and issues permits related to water systems, water wells, solid waste sites, garbage franchise districts, housing, onsite wastewater treatment systems, sewage treatment plants, special events, food facilities, hazardous substance storage facilities, generators of hazardous waste, underground storage tank operators and related activities.
2. Provides technical program information and policy interpretations for the public, businesses, community groups, contractors and professionals about sanitation problems, inspection results, prevention and correction of health hazards; assists with joint inspections with staff from other jurisdictions as required.
3. Prepares written reports, memoranda and correspondence.
4. Prepares and presents education programs for the public businesses community groups, contractors, and professionals.
5. Collects and analyzes technical data; collects evidence for cases referred to District Attorney.
6. May appear in court as an expert witness.
7. May respond to reported toxic or chemical spills, and potential exposures, as an Emergency Response Team member.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

A combination of experience, education, and/or training which substantially demonstrates the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

Some Knowledge of:

1. Chemistry, biology, microbiology, and environmental health science
2. Methods and procedures used to conduct research, inspections, or investigations

EHS I

Skill and ability to:

1. Understand, interpret and apply laws and regulations
2. Learn to conduct investigations
3. Collect, analyze and interpret data with appropriate recommendations based on findings
4. Communicate visual observations and ideas by writing concise complete and technically accurate reports, records, correspondence, surveys and studies
5. Speak effectively to individuals and groups from diverse social and cultural backgrounds
6. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with business and community groups, department staff, other departments, and the public
7. React calmly and effectively to diffuse any potentially stressful or difficult situations

EHS-II

Working knowledge of:

1. Principles, methods, technology and equipment used in inspection, analysis and enforcement of environmental health regulations and correction of unsanitary conditions
2. Principles and practices of environmental sanitation, chemistry, biology, microbiology and biochemistry as applied to public health, sanitation, hazardous materials management and hazardous waste disposal
3. State, Federal and local laws and regulations governing environmental health
4. Effective inspection and enforcement techniques and appropriate response to violations
5. Basic construction plan review principles applied to food establishments, pools and spas, well-drilling, water systems, septic systems, and hazardous materials business response plans
6. Penal code relating to public nuisances

Skill and ability to:

1. Perform independently all skills required of an Environmental Health Specialist I in assigned area
2. Evaluate environmental impact of building plans, water treatment systems and septic disposal systems
3. Secure compliance, correction and remediation through education, persuasion and/or legal enforcement

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4. Use proper tools, test equipment, measuring devices, sampling techniques to collect and record accurate data and to define the scope of environmental problems
5. Work independently, or as a team member, and exercise sound professional judgment in completion of assigned investigations and projects
6. Plan and complete routine and complex field inspection, surveys, site visits, construction plan reviews, and permit issuance without direct supervision
7. Respond to emergency incidents/spills; identify toxic or hazardous materials and initiate protective and remedial actions

### **REQUIRED CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYEMENT**

As a condition of employment, the incumbent will be required to:

#### Mandated Requirements

1. Pursuant to Section 106615 (d) California Health and Safety Code, the Environmental Health Specialist I must meet the minimum education requirements necessary to qualify for State of California Registration as an Environmental Health Specialist – Trainee. Environmental Health Specialist I candidates must possess a letter from the State of California Local Environmental Health Programs Section stating that they meet the minimum educational requirements.
2. EHS II – Valid Certificate of Registration as an Environmental Health Specialist issued by the State of California, Department of Health Services, pursuant to Section 106600 - 106735 of the California Health and Safety Code.
3. An EHS II assigned to Hazardous Materials Management Services is required to obtain valid certification as a Hazardous Materials Technician or Hazardous Materials Specialist from the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) (or as defined in California Government Code, The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, Section 8574.20) no later than 24 months following appointment to EHS II.

#### Other Requirements

1. The EHS I must complete all required education, experience and training for, and obtain, a valid Certificate of Registration as an Environmental Health Specialist issued by the State of California, Department of Health Services no later than 36 months from date of hire.
2. Possess and maintain a valid California Class C Driver’s License
3. Tolerate rodents and insects such as rats, mice and cockroaches; tolerate unsanitary or hazardous conditions such as septic failures, accumulated garbage or animal waste
4. Work with potentially hostile individuals in volatile situations
5. Enter and perform work in establishments which may expose the incumbent to what may be considered offensive or repugnant sights, sounds or smells
6. Work with or around equipment that, if misused, has the potential to present a radiological hazard
7. Work some nights, weekends and/or holidays, and respond to emergency incidents or disasters outside normal work hours, as needed

8. An Environmental Health Specialist assigned to Hazardous Materials Management Services may be required to respond to incidents involving spills of unknown chemically hazardous materials or potentially hazardous unidentified substances; may be required to maintain contact with the worksite or co-workers outside of normal work hours by carrying a communications device; and will be required to respond, as a member of the Emergency Response Team, to incidents that occur outside normal work hours.
9. An Environmental Health Specialist assigned to the Hazardous Materials Management Services must pass fitness testing for the use of respirators.

### **EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCE/EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Any combination of training, education, and/or experience which provides the knowledge, skills, and abilities and required conditions of employment listed above is qualifying. An example of a way these requirements might be acquired is:

#### Environmental Health Specialist I

Education: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major work in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Environmental Health, Toxicology or closely related field and possession of a valid Environmental Health Specialist Trainee letter issued by the California Department of Health Services.

#### Environmental Health Specialist II

Education: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major work in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Environmental Health, Toxicology or closely related field.

AND

Experience: One year of experience performing duties comparable to the class of Environmental Health Specialist I with Monterey County including a full range of investigative and enforcement duties or an equivalent position with broad responsibility in appropriate specialized area and current registration as an Environmental Health Specialist.

### **PHYSICAL AND SENSORY REQUIREMENTS**

The physical and sensory abilities required for this classification include:

1. Ability to hear conversations in person, over the radio and on the telephone
2. Ability to speak clearly and with volume required to carry on clear conversations in person, over the radio and on the telephone
3. Manual dexterity needed to operate the computer keyboard, tools, test equipment, and measuring devices used to collect data, and other equipment required to perform specific program tasks
4. Ability to see well enough to view inspection sites to ascertain compliance with environmental health laws and regulations
5. Physical stamina and mobility to walk, stand, stoop, reach and bend on irregular surfaces and rough terrain, and to climb stairs or ladders to inspect and/or gather samples from construction sites, well sites, land fills, food and housing establishments, pools, etc.
6. Ability to smell and taste sufficiently to perform normal organoleptic tests

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7. Agility and mobility to drive a motor vehicle in order to transport self and others in the course of work
8. For Hazardous Materials Management Services assignments, ability to pass fitness testing for the use of respirators

**CLASS HISTORY**

Class Code: 30J11 (EHS I)  
30J21 (EHS II)  
Established: December 1988  
Revised Date: May 2008  
Former Title: N/A  
Consolidated: Hazardous Materials Spec I/II

**CLASS DATA**

Job Group: 14  
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EEO Category: PP (EHS I)  
EEO Category: T (EHS II)  
Bargaining Unit: H  
FLSA: C (EHS I)  
FLSA: C (EHS II)  
MOCO OT: Y (EHS I)  
MOCO OT: N (EHS II)

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Date