ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST TRAINEE

DEFINITION

Under supervision, receives training in performing environmental duties related to investigation, inspection and sampling to determine compliance with environmental standards for food, drinking water, waste disposal and vector control; and performs other related work as assigned.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in natural sciences, environmental sciences, engineering or a closely related field; OR any combination of education and experience approved the Nevada Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialist.

LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE

Certificate of registration as an Environmental Health Specialist Trainee with the Nevada State Board of Environmental Health Specialist must be obtained within 90 days of date of hire. This certificate expires three years after the date on which the person initially becomes employed as part of the training program.

May require the ability to obtain Certification in the State of Nevada as a General Commercial Restricted Use Pesticide Applicator in the categories of Mosquito and Public Health. Certification must be obtained if assigned to the Vector Control Program.

A valid driver's license is required at the time of appointment.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This is the entry and training level in the Environmental Health Specialist series which provides for progression to the journey level upon meeting the requirements of the class and recommendation of the appointing authority. Incumbents must obtain certification as described in NRS Chapter 625A.115 in order to be retained for employment unless an exemption is granted by the REHS Board. This level is intended as a training position to enable incumbents to learn policies, procedures, specific techniques and regulations related to environmental health while assisting journey level Environmental Health Specialists.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED

Exercises no supervision.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES (The following is used as a partial description and is not restrictive as to duties required.)

Participate in and perform inspections and investigations of environmental complaints and conditions by sampling, testing and surveying potential sources of environmental health problems, including epidemiological and vector events, food and drink establishments, temporary food establishments, swimming pools, hotels, motels, residences, institutional facilities, hazardous material sites, liquid waste facilities, underground storage tanks and drinking water to determine the extent of compliance/non-compliance with appropriate standards and regulations and to identify the necessity for corrective/preventative action.
Participate in and conduct field surveys, determining sources of potential environmental health hazards and population ecologies to evaluate public health risks; implement methods for the control or eradication of specific environmental deficiencies to curtail occurrences or control conditions which adversely affect human health, safety and comfort.

Recommend and enforce appropriate control measures to ensure compliance with environmental standards and regulations through the issue of quarantine orders; issue or revoke operating permits to eliminate or reduce potential health hazards.

Receive training in the application of control measures used in environmental health programs, such as vector, drinking water, epidemiology and others, to eliminate or reduce potential health hazards.

Review of permit applications and building plans to determine if proposed construction and/or businesses are in compliance with established health and safety regulations; recommend alterations to building plans and establishments to achieve compliance and gain permit approval.

Participate in the development of changes in regulations and division protocols and procedures; recommend methods for the control or eradication of environmental hazards or deficiencies.

Participate in public and industrial education programs, including provide training to targeted groups and make presentations on environmental issues at schools, businesses and meetings of community groups to promote awareness and understanding of programs, services, policies and regulatory requirements.

Write inspection and investigation reports, which evaluate findings and include recommendations; assemble data (computerized and manual) for tracking and documentation purposes and to prepare federal, state and local reports.

Participate in the compilation and preparation of evidence in conjunction with the prosecution of violations, which may include appearing in court and before designated hearing boards.

**JOB RELATED AND ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS**

**Full Performance** *(These may be acquired on the job and are needed to perform the work assigned.)*

**Knowledge of:**
Federal, state and local regulations governing compliance with environmental standards for health, safety and comfort.

Local geography and population densities.

Disease/injury control and prevention measures and protocols that encompass a variety of program areas.

Investigative sampling and testing protocols, methods and techniques for environmental health and vector control programs.

Departmental/divisional policies and procedures.

Management information systems and software programs used in the assigned area(s).

**Ability to:**
Read blueprints and construction plans.

Write investigative reports and other documents.
Operate and maintain assigned departmental equipment used for testing, sampling, eradication and control of environmental hazards and deficiencies.

Make visual presentations to a variety of audiences, including public education programs.

Recommend solutions for environmental hazards and deficiencies.

**Entry Level** *(Applicants will be screened for possession of these through written, oral, performance or other evaluation methods.)*

**Knowledge of:**
Conditions contributing to environmental problems including human disease/injury causing factors (human, animal and plant) and accepted control measures.

Instruments and equipment commonly used in environmental health programs.

Quantitative methods, scientific methodology, data collection and report preparation.

Investigative sampling and testing methods and techniques for environmental data acquisition.

**Ability to:**
Observe and evaluate environmental deficiencies and hazards and recommend solutions.

Interpret and apply regulations, policies, protocols and procedures.

Operate a personal computer and a variety of software packages.

Research, compile, tabulate, analyze and interpret data and information.

Maintain files, records, data and information.

Communicate in a clear, concise manner, both orally and in writing.

Establish, foster and maintain effective working relationships with all those contacted in the course of work.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS** *(Essential duties require the following physical skills and work environment.)*

Work is performed in a standard office environment and various indoor and outdoor offsite locations. Ability to lift and move objects weighing up to 50 lbs. Ability to operate testing equipment for environmental health and vector control. Ability to use standard office equipment including computers, copiers, telephones, and FAX machines. Ability to work around machinery with moving parts and on slippery or uneven surfaces. Ability to tolerate exposure to the elements, dust, chemicals, and possibly toxic substances.

*This class specification is used for classification, recruitment and examination purposes. It is not to be considered a substitute for work performance standards.*