



CLASSIFICATION NO. 738
Established: 2/15
FLSA: Exempt
EEO: 2

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST, SENIOR

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

Under general supervision, to apply sanitary, biological and physical science principles and knowledge to improve and control environmental factors affecting the public's health and welfare; to lead the work of Environmental Health Specialists; and to do other work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

The Environmental Health section within the Public Health Division is responsible for: inspecting food, tourist, housing, school, institutional care and day care and other public facilities for compliance with public health laws; evaluating the safety of private and public water supplies and sewage systems; and conducting epidemiological investigations.

The Environmental Health Specialist, Senior is the advanced-journey level position in the Environmental Health Specialist series. The incumbent serves as a program leader in conducting surveys, inspections and investigations of public and private facilities to determine compliance with public health laws and administrative rules. Positions provide consultative and educational services in Environmental Sanitation to public and private groups.

Environmental Health Specialist, Senior differs from Environmental Health Specialist 2 in that it is the advanced-journey level position and provides lead work over employees in the Environmental Health Specialist 1 and Environmental Health Specialist 2 classifications. The Environmental Health Specialist, Senior differs from Public Health Program Manager who oversees Environmental Health and is responsible for the overall management and administration of the Environmental Health Program.

TYPICAL TASKS

Duties may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Serves as the programmatic or project leader for the inspection of food, tourist, housing, school, institutional care and day care facilities, and public swimming and spa pools for compliance with State sanitation laws and regulations; conducts health hazard surveys.
2. Conducts public water system surveys and follows up on alerts.
3. Provides expert-level technical assistance, lead direction, advisement and training for team members, department, and other partners and agencies.
4. Provides problem solving direction and education for difficult or complex environmental health situations including emergency, seasonal, epidemic, or typical operation situations.

5. Evaluates the safety of private water supplies and sewage systems; collects samples for laboratory analysis; interprets and documents test results. Investigates communicable disease outbreaks implicating food or water or other environmental causes in public facilities or in a community; recommends necessary control measures.
6. Conducts special investigations in matters related to environmental health; conducts health inspections and performs mediation when conflict exists between EHS and facility operators.
7. Reviews building and mechanical plans and specifications of proposed or existing facilities for compliance with public health laws.
8. Assists with quality improvement projects including development and maintenance of program area to meet federal standards.
9. Assists with ongoing emergency preparedness planning, training, and implementation.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Thorough knowledge of: Applicable public health statutes and laws, County ordinances and state memos and policies.

Working knowledge of: Modern methods, principles, techniques and practices of environmental health and sanitation; procedures and practices of disease control; water, sewage and septic systems and their placement and usage; sanitary standards for public swimming and spa pools, institutional care facilities, schools and water supplies, restaurants, tourist facilities, day care facilities and farm labor camps.

Skill to: Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; lead, train, and assist assigned staff; investigate and report on compliance with sanitary and environmental standards, laws, rules and regulations; perform and interpret clinical, physical, and biological tests related to environmental health and sanitation investigations; deliver education programs to staff and community members; establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work; promote awareness of and participation toward the correction of public health problems among the general public.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Duties in the field require standing, walking, twisting, squatting, bending, reaching, balancing, grasping, fine motor control, the ability to lift, carry, push, pull objects, and involve exposure to confined spaces, noises, dust, chemicals, slippery and/or uneven surfaces, and adverse weather conditions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum qualifications are used as a guide for establishing the minimum experience, education, licensure, and/or certifications required for employment in the classification. The following minimum qualifications are established for this classification. Additional minimum qualifications and special conditions may apply to a specific position within this classification and will be stated on the job announcement.

Experience: A minimum of one (1) year of related experience that would provide the required knowledge and skills to perform the responsibilities of this position.

Licenses/Certifications:

The following licensure/certifications are required at the time of hire.

- Registration as a “Registered Environmental Health Specialist” (per ORS 700.020)
OR
- Licensure as a Sanitary Engineer or Public Health Engineer

PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

Must successfully pass a criminal history check which may include national or state fingerprint records check.

Driving is required for County business on a regular basis or to accomplish work. Incumbents must possess a valid driver's license, and possess and maintain an acceptable driving record throughout the course of employment.

Edited: 12/24