

**EMD**

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT



# CAREERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



EMD Divisions: Environmental Health • Hazardous Materials • Water Protection

8475 Jackson Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Suites 230/240 Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 875-8440 • [www.EMD.SacCounty.net](http://www.EMD.SacCounty.net)

## Environmental Health Career Guide



**JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY!**

## What is Environmental Health?

The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) employs 84 Environmental Specialists whose primary responsibility is to ensure a safe place to work, live and play in Sacramento County. Our principle responsibilities are to monitor and enforce regulations of the California Health & Safety Code, and County of Sacramento Ordinances. EMD is comprised of three Divisions: Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Management and Water Protection.

Have you ever wondered who makes sure the food and beverages you buy in your community are safe to eat? Did you ever think about what laws protect your health at an apartment pool or the spa at the fitness center? What about at festivals, Farmers' Markets, outdoor concerts, celebrity golf tournaments, resort or hotel pools and spas, water parks, and summer camps? All of these public facilities are regularly inspected by the Environmental Specialists within EMD.

Daily activities for an Environmental Specialist working in the Environmental Health Division include a combination of the following:

- **Conduct routine inspections of permitted food facilities, public swimming pools and spas, water parks, public school cafeterias, mobile food facilities, community events.**
- **Investigate complaints regarding permitted facilities, foodborne illness, unpermitted facilities and businesses.**
- **Prepare and participate in legal proceedings including hearings, impounding food or equipment, citations, closures and court actions.**

### **Consider the following questions**

- Do you have a bachelor's degree, or are you working toward earning a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in biological or physical science?
- Are you interested in a career that is diverse and dynamic?
- Do you want a career that allows you to apply science in the field?
- Are you interested in a profession that makes a difference?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, then becoming an Environmental Specialist may be the right career for you.

## Getting Ready to Apply in 3 Easy Steps

1. Complete bachelor's degree with emphasis in biological or physical science
  - Visit <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/occupations/Documents/REHS/EdRequirements.pdf> for a comprehensive listing of education requirements.
2. Contact California Department of Public Health, REHS Program for application package:

California Department of Public Health  
EHS Registration Program  
MS 7404  
P.O. Box 997377  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377  
email [REHSprog@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:REHSprog@cdph.ca.gov)  
Message phone: 916 449-5663  
Fax: 916 449-5665  
Clerical Desk: 916 449-5662

Additional information available at

[www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/occupations/pages/REHS.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/occupations/pages/REHS.aspx)

3. The registration process requires a review of university transcripts either by CPS Human Resource Services (domestic) or a Credential Evaluation Service (foreign). Detailed instructions are included in the CDPH-REHS application package.
  - This process takes approximately 4 weeks after all required documents are received. Once the review is complete CPS will notify the applicant and CDPH-REHS detailing the applicant's qualification and identifying any additional course requirements.
  - A listing of foreign Credential Evaluation Services is available at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/occupations/Documents/REHS/CESlistREVISSEDparagraph.pdf>

Approximately 1 week after receipt of the qualification letter from CPS, the Department of Public Health will issue an eligibility letter to the applicant detailing the educational and training requirements that must be completed to qualify for entrance to the EHS Registration exam.

Once you have received the eligibility letter from the Department of Public Health, you are eligible to be hired as an EHS trainee with the County of Sacramento or any other jurisdiction in the State. ***You must have completed at least a bachelor's degree to be considered.*** The eligibility letter is valid for 30 months from the date of receipt.

### Registration and Exam Fees

In addition to the application fees to the California Department of Public Health and CPS, the following fees apply:

- STATE REGISTRATION AND EXAM FEES
  1. State Registration Exam - \$126.00. Within the first 36 months of employment as an Environmental Specialist, you must pass the State exam to become a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS).
  2. Registration Certificate – Once you have passed the State Registration Exam there is a fee of \$175.00 to receive your registration certificate.

3. Registration Renewal – The State collects this renewal fee of \$175.00 every two years

### How to Apply

Once you have your letter, you can apply with the County of Sacramento through our online application system. To streamline the process, follow the tips provided here:

- Fill out the online form and submit your resume and certification letter at the following link: <http://hra.co.sacramento.ca.us/employ/opp/content.htm>
- For questions about the application process, contact the County of Sacramento, Department of Personnel Services at (916) 874-5593.

### On the Job

Most of the first year for an ES I is spent learning the job and preparing to take the REHS examination. Following approximately two months of general training, you will begin to work independently within a geographical area. You will also complete the training in other areas of environmental health necessary to gain entrance to the examination.

### Promotional Opportunities

After all education and experience requirements obtained while working as an ES I have been completed, you will be admitted to the REHS examination. Once the REHS examination is passed, you will be eligible for promotion to an ES II. Following another 2 years of experience you are eligible for advancement to the ES III class. Beyond the ES II class, all positions, such as ES III and ES IV (Supervising ES) are based on a competitive interview system.

### Salary Range (approximate)

ES I – \$46,792 • ES II – \$50,363 - \$61,241 • ES III – \$60,134 - \$73,101

### Environmental Management Department Divisions

#### *Environmental Health Division*

**Food Protection Program:** Environmental Specialists in the Food Protection Program enforce State and local health codes that apply to retail food facilities in Sacramento County. The following activities are conducted to ensure compliance with the codes and regulations:

- Permitting and inspection of retail food businesses including restaurants, bars, markets, school cafeterias, bakeries, mini-marts and convenience stores, mobile food vendors, and special/temporary event booths. Providing public disclosure of inspection results through the issuance of the Green, Yellow, and Red Placards.
- Food safety education and training to improve compliance with food safety regulations and reduce the incidence of foodborne illness.

- Investigation of complaints regarding food safety and sanitation violations at retail food facilities and investigation of suspected cases of foodborne illness.

**Recreational Health Program:** Through outreach, inspection, and enforcement, Environmental Specialists work to eliminate physical, chemical, and bacteriological hazards at public pools and spas.

**Other programs in the Environmental Health Division:** Detention Facility Inspection, Plan Review, Tobacco Retailer Inspection, Noise, Farm Labor Camps/ Employee Housing Inspection, and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.

#### *Hazardous Materials Division*

**Hazardous Materials/Wastes Program:** Environmental Specialists working in this program ensure operators comply with regulations that apply to handling hazardous materials. Specific areas of regulation include Underground Storage Tanks, Hazardous Materials Business Plans, Hazardous Waste storage and disposal, the California Accidental Release Prevention Program, and 24 Hour Hazardous Materials Emergency Response.

**Solid Waste Program:** Environmental Specialists in the solid waste program ensure compliance in the operation of landfills, transfer stations, recycling facilities and medical waste producing facilities. The solid waste team is also responsible for the Business Recycling program.

#### *Water Protection Division*

**Drinking Water Program:** Environmental Specialists in this program work to ensure that businesses and home-owners comply with all State and local laws that apply to groundwater. Wells are monitored during installation and destruction and routine inspections of small water systems are conducted.

**Liquid Waste Program:** Environmental Specialists in this program issue permits, conduct inspections, and investigate complaints related to septic systems, sewage pumper trucks, and wastewater reclamation systems.

**Storm Water Program:** Environmental Specialists in this program conduct inspections to ensure compliance with local storm water ordinances that require businesses to prevent the discharge of pollutants into storm drainage systems, and eliminate illicit connections to storm drainage systems.

### Contact us

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