



Environmental Health Officers of the U.S. Public Health Service

“Advancing and Protecting the Nation’s Health”

What is an Environmental Health Officer?

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) serve in several U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) agencies providing basic environmental health services related to food, water and waste; and more specialized services in areas of injury prevention and institutional environmental health; and highly specialized services in areas such as counterterrorism, industrial hygiene, health physics and hazardous waste.

PHS EHOs carry out their responsibilities by performing a wide variety of activities, including surveys, investigations, research, teaching and training, consumer education, technical assistance, regulatory compliance, and codes and standards development. Each agency is actively involved in counterterrorism efforts and EHOs play an integral role in emergency response. These activities are carried out by a cadre of approximately 375 EHOs assigned to the agencies and programs listed below.

Where do PHS EHOs work?

Agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
The Food and Drug Administration
Health Resources and Services Administration
Indian Health Service
National Institutes of Health

www.cdc.gov
www.atsdr.cdc.gov
www.fda.gov
www.hrsa.gov
www.ihs.gov
www.nih.gov

Other Agencies

U. S. Coast Guard
Environmental Protection Agency
National Park Service
Bureau of Prisons
USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service

www.uscg.mil
www.epa.gov
www.nps.gov
www.bop.gov
www.usda.gov

What subject areas do PHS EHOs specialize in?

- Air and Water Pollution
- Emergency Preparedness
- Hazardous Materials Management
- Injury Prevention
- Industrial Hygiene
- Occupational Safety
- Recreational Facilities
- Zoonotic Disease Control
- Communicable Disease Control
- Food and Drug Safety
- Health Care Administration
- Institutional Environmental Health
- Interstate Travel Sanitation
- Radiological Health
- Solid Waste Management

What are the required qualifications to become an EHO?

A candidate must possess a qualifying degree or professional certification in one of the following:

- a. A bachelor's or master's in environmental health that is accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council, <http://www.ehacoffice.org>;
- b. A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in industrial hygiene that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology for the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, http://www.abet.org/accredited_programs.shtml;
- c. A master's or doctoral degree in environmental or occupational health from a school of public health that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health, <http://www.ceph.org>;

- d. Certification as an Industrial Hygienist (CIH) by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, <http://www.abih.org/>; or
- e. Certification as a Health Physicist (CHP) by the American Board of Health Physics, <http://www.hps1.org/aa hp/abhp/abhp.htm>.

For additional information and considerations regarding appointment boards and appointment standards please consult the Division of Commissioned Personnel, Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual, at http://dcp.psc.gov/PDF_docs/ccpmtransmittal663_2.pdf

Candidates must be a U.S. citizen, generally under 44 years of age, and must meet medical requirements including height and weight standards. Officer is in probationary status during the first three years of active duty.

Civil Service (non-commissioned) Environmental Health positions are available throughout the agencies listed on the first page of this document. Specific qualifications and benefits for those positions are described within the specific job announcement.

[What are some of the benefits?](#)

Benefits include: Noncontributory retirement based on a 20 to 30-year career, Social Security coverage, noncontributory medical care at uniformed service facilities, noncontributory medical care for dependents at uniformed services facilities or shared cost care in the private sector, life insurance, survivor benefits, disability benefits, tax-deferred contributory investment program, burial allowances, Veteran's Administration benefits, use of military commissaries and exchanges, and reimbursement of travel expenses related to assignment.

[How can I apply?](#)

The following website includes the forms and instructions that are needed to start your active duty application, <http://www.usphs.gov/applynow>. Please note that the application process to be called to active duty in the Commissioned Corps of the PHS is a dual process. You must apply for a commission in the PHS, and you must also apply for jobs at Agencies or with Programs that accept PHS officers for assignments. The above website contains the application to the commissioned corps. Go to our Commissioned Corps Jobs Database (http://dcp.psc.gov/VATS/rpt_category_button.asp) to apply for individual jobs.

[Who can I talk with to get more information?](#)

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CAPT Alan Parham, EHOPAC Marketing and Recruitment Subcommittee Co-Chair
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[For additional information visit the websites listed below](#)

USPHS Commissioned Corps	http://www.usphs.gov
Commissioned Corps Management Information System	http://dcp.psc.gov
Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee	http://ehopac.org
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS, Inc.	http://www.coausphs.org
USPHS Commissioned Corps – Agencies and Programs	http://www.usphs.gov/aboutus/agencies.aspx

