

Environmental Health Officers

United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps



Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps ensure public health and safety in a variety of national and international roles. EHOs are assigned to the Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies and programs, providing environmental health, occupational health, safety, and industrial hygiene services.

As a committed cadre of approximately 350 EHOs, work assignments are diverse and numerous. Examples include epidemiological surveillance, disease prevention, radiological health, industrial hygiene, food safety, injury prevention and education, and emergency preparedness. During natural disasters and other emergencies, EHOs protect the public from environmental threats and help communities recover.

Environmental Health Officers:

- Conduct a wide range of activities, including surveys, investigations, research, training and education, and codes and standards development
- Provide services in general environmental health, health promotion and disease prevention, injury prevention, and occupational safety
- Provide leadership and support to public health programs designed to protect the public from exposure to hazardous substances
- Provide highly specialized services in areas such as counterterrorism, industrial hygiene, health physics, hazardous waste, and biomedical and epidemiological research
- Respond to public health emergencies

- Review and regulate human and animal foods, medical products, and devices
- Develop and monitor national health programs and policies

Environmental Health Officers hold one of the following:

- A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in environmental health from a program accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)
- A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the curricular areas of industrial hygiene, safety, or health physics that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)
- A master's or doctoral degree with a specialization in environmental health, occupational health, or industrial hygiene from a school of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)
- A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in any field and be certified as either an industrial hygienist by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or as a health physicist by the American Board of Health Physics

“For over 70 years, Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) have proudly served in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) to protect and advance the Nation’s health. USPHS EHOs have a distinguished history of serving the public health needs of all Americans.” -RADM Kelly M. Taylor

