

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 standards development
- Provide services in general environmental health, health promotion, disease and 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 qualifications:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in environmental health accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)
- Bachelor's or master's degree from a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in environmental health, occupational health, and safety, industrial hygiene, or health physics
- Master's or doctoral degree in environmental health, occupational health, or industrial hygiene from a school accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)*

*CEPH degree candidates must also possess current certification as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) or REHS/RS-In Training by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). A state issued RS or REHS is acceptable if the credential is eligible for reciprocity from NEHA.

"As an EHO in the USPHS Commissioned Corps, you'll find meaningful experiences and frequent opportunities to make the world a better place. As part of a unique team of committed public health professionals, you'll enjoy leadership opportunities, excellent benefits, and work/life balance, all while improving and advancing the health of the Nation."
– CAPT Timothy Jiggins

