

Welcome Aboard

Congratulations on becoming boarded in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). You have been found to meet the high standards of the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) Category. Bravo on this excellent achievement!

You will now need to find a position with one of the Department of Health & Human Services agencies or another branch of the federal government that staffs PHS Environmental Health Officers.

Search Advice

Be Proactive. Review the agencies listed below and call their points of contact for those you where may be interested in working. Vacancies can be found at USAjobs.gov and the agency contacts may also have information on vacancies not yet posted. Successful officers manage their careers and this will be the first of many opportunities to show initiative.

Be Adventurousome. It may be that the only entry level positions at the time you are searching are in remote locations called isolated hardship or ISOHAR assignments. In some ISOHAR assignments loan repayment is available. Approach ISOHAR assignments with a spirit of adventure; many seasoned officers look back at their ISOHAR assignments as their best.

Be Flexible. Your agency of choice may not hire entry-level officers or may not have a vacancy that fits your timetable. Keep in mind that first assignments generally range from 2-3 years, and it may be possible to transfer to your ideal assignment after fulfilling your initial obligation.

Be Persistent. The federal application and selection process can be complex. In some cases, the candidate may apply, interview and be hired within a few weeks. However, many times the process can take much longer. We encourage you to be patient but persistent along the way.

Agencies & Contacts

Indian Health Service

Whether assisting an Alaska Native Village with a wastewater disposal system in the arctic or teaching food safety in a Navajo chapter house, you will treasure your IHS experience. IHS has traditionally hired the most entry level officers in the USPHS, and it's often where most EHOs get

their start. IHS assignments are located primarily west of the Mississippi. Travel varies depending on the location. For EHO assignments in the IHS, contact CAPT Kelly Taylor at (301)443-1054 kelly.taylor@ihs.gov.

United States Coast Guard

EHOs provide both ship and shore based industrial hygiene and general environmental health services as uniformed Coast Guard officers. Most entry level assignments are found in Norfolk, VA with second assignments located in coastal cities throughout the US. USCG prefers officers in their second assignment, but some entry level positions are available. For assignments, contact CDR Mike Boley at (757) 628-4403 Michael.D.Boley@uscg.mil or CDR Melburn Dayton at (202) 475-5210 Melburn.R.Dayton@uscg.mil.

Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry

ATSDR EHOs investigate the health effects of hazardous materials from superfund sites. Officers also make recommendations to EPA for protecting the public from harmful environmental exposures. Officers are primarily based out of Atlanta with some officers stationed in Regional Offices throughout the US. ATSDR offers both entry and senior officer assignments. For assignments with the ATSDR, contact LCDR Jennifer Freed at (770) 488-3650 JFreed@cdc.gov.

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

The CDC consists of 14 world-renowned Centers, Institutes and Offices. Two areas where most EHOs work include the National Institute for Occupation Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH). EH Officers at NIOSH conduct research to prevent workplace injury and illness. EH Officers at NCEH can work within an array of emergency and environmental health service programs such as Chemical Weapons Elimination, Healthy Homes, Environmental Health Services and Vessel Sanitation. Most officers are Atlanta-based, but some are assigned to Washington, D.C., Ft. Collins, CO and Miami, FL. For CDC assignments, contact LCDR Justin Gerding at (770) 488-3972 iud0@cdc.gov.

National Park Service

Officers assigned to the NPS may inspect a public water system at Zion National Park one day and evaluate the food safety of river raft guides in the Grand Canyon the next. EHOs are typically based out of regional offices in cities including Atlanta, Denver and Washington, D.C. Extensive

overnight travel is common. The NPS offers a few entry level positions but prefers senior grade officers. For assignments with the National Park Service, contact Sonya Coakley at (202) 513-7215 Sonya_coakley@nps.gov.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Located on the wooded campus of America's premier medical research facility in Bethesda, Maryland, EHOs provide industrial hygiene, radiation protection and complex hazardous waste management to labs and clinical environments. NIH prefers officers in a second assignment, but some entry level positions are available. For assignments with NIH, contact LCDR Derek Newcomer at (301) 451-5811 newcomerd@mail.nih.gov.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

The FDA ensures safety of food, pharmaceuticals and medical devices. EHOs serve as Consumer Safety Officers inspecting medical device manufacturers and food products bound for interstate commerce. Next to the IHS, the FDA accounts for a significant number of entry level positions. Assignments can be found in most major cities in the US. For assignments with the FDA, contact CAPT Cassandra Sherrod at (301) 796-4584 kassandra.sherrod@fda.hhs.gov.

USDA - Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS)

The Food Safety Inspection Service provides America a first line of defense against diseased and adulterated food products. Officers serve as Consumer Safety Inspectors at food processing plants or Import Inspectors at ports or other points of entry. The FSIS employs over 7,000 inspectors nationwide. Call the FSIS Human Resources 1-800-370-3747 or CDR Don Ackerman at (215) 205-4140 Donald.Ackerman@fsis.usda.gov.

All Other Agencies - USAJobs.gov

While the above mentioned agencies hire the majority of USPHS Environmental Health Officers, EHOs can be found throughout the federal government including the EPA, Bureau of Prisons, OSHA and Immigration & Customs Enforcement. The best way to find these positions is to conduct an advanced search of USAjobs.gov by title and series using the following:

Job Title	Series
Food Inspection	1863
Safety & Occupational Health	0018
Sanitarian	0688
Environmental Health	0601
Consumer Safety	0696
Industrial Hygiene	0690

Note HHS, DOI, EPA and USCG routinely hire PHS Officers. Other agencies state if the position is open to officers in the announcement.

Agency Points of Contact

Indian Health Service
CAPT Kelly Taylor
Tel. (301) 443-1054
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Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
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Environmental Health
Officer Category

Securing Your First Assignment

