

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) work to identify conditions that can make people sick or injured, and then take steps to eliminate or minimize these undesirable conditions. The EHS works with a variety of environmental media such as food, water, and air to reduce human morbidity and mortality. There is also a strong focus on hazardous materials management, vector and pest control, and communicable disease prevention. Many environmental health professionals spend their days conducting surveys, performing research, and providing education on various environmental health related topics. Some specialized environmental health professionals work in hospitals or industrial settings to help ensure a safe environment.

Working as an EHS is a challenging and rewarding career, and working in rural Alaska offers many unique challenges. The remote arctic setting offers a variety of opportunities for one to make measurable improvements. Individuals who choose a career in environmental health science are making a decision to spend their life creating a healthier world for others to live in.

## Where do environmental health specialists work in Alaska?



Environmental Health Specialists work in a variety of settings including government agencies, public health departments, universities and private industry, including hospitals. In Alaska they also work for the Indian Health Service and tribal health organizations.



### Hourly Wage Range\*

**\$18.82-\$45.16 (Mean \$30.25)**

\*based on Alaska DOL data



### Years in School: 4 or more years\*

\*after high school graduation

## Educational Requirements



- Graduation from a high school with strong college preparatory background, especially in math and science.
- Completion of a four-year bachelor's degree in environmental health science.
- Successful completion of the National Environmental Health Association's Registered Environmental Health Specialist exam. This is normally accomplished shortly after the individual has graduated college and has had an opportunity to gain some work experience.
- Many environmental health specialists go on to complete a master's degree in public health or environmental health.

## Academic Programs in Alaska

A list of accredited undergraduate and graduate schools can be obtained at:

The National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC)

2632 SE 25th Ave, Ste D

Portland, OR 97202

Phone: (503) 235-6047

Fax: (503) 235-7300

Email: [ehacinfo@aehap.org](mailto:ehacinfo@aehap.org)

Web site: <http://www.ehacoffice.org/>

*Note: For students interested in obtaining a position with the federal government as an Environmental Health Specialist, many positions require that students have a degree from an accredited program.*

## State and National Contacts

### State Contacts:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Health

Phone: (907) 269-7644

Web site: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/>

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Division of Environmental Health and Engineering

Phone: (800) 560-8637

Web site: <http://www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/>

### National Contact:

National Environmental Health Association

Phone: (303) 756-9090

Email: [staff@neha.org](mailto:staff@neha.org)

Web site: <http://www.neha.org>

Information from: [www.healthcareersinalaska.info](http://www.healthcareersinalaska.info)

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developed by Alaska Center for Rural Health-Alaska's AHEC: <http://nursing.uaa.alaska.edu/acrh/>