



# Health Careers In Alaska

[www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info](http://www.HealthCareersInAlaska.Info)

## Industrial Hygienist

Industrial hygienists are scientists and engineers who anticipate, recognize, evaluate, and control hazardous conditions in the workplace and in the community. They assist employers in developing plans and implementing systems to make the workplace and community a safe and healthy environment.

Activities in this discipline typically include program

management in industrial, healthcare, and government settings. Emphasis is often on planning, process design, and evaluating hazards such as noise levels, confined space entry, chemical safety, ergonomics, eye safety, respiratory protection, indoor air quality, hazardous material/waste, lead based paint, asbestos, manufacturing practices, construction safety, and compliance with other Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards.

## Industrial Hygienist Facts:

### Where do industrial hygienists work in Alaska?

Industrial Hygienists are employed by state and local governments, large corporations and businesses, private industry, insurance carriers and the military. In rural Alaska, Industrial Hygienists generally work in the regional hubs and larger communities or may have positions that combine their IH duties with those of a Safety Officer.

### Educational Requirements

- Graduation from high school with a strong college preparatory background especially in the sciences.
- Completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree in industrial hygiene, environmental health, chemistry, physics, biology, engineering, or a closely related physical or biological science.
- Many industrial hygienists also complete a Master's degree in one of the above listed sciences. To be a "Certified Industrial Hygienist," one must apply for and pass an exam after completing four years of practical experience in the field of industrial hygiene. The exam is administered by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene.

### Hourly Wage Range:

\$20.54-\$56.16 (Mean \$37.89)

*\*based on Alaska DOL data*

### Years in School:

4 or more years (*after high school graduation*).

### Academic Programs in Alaska

There are no industrial hygiene programs in Alaska, but there are a variety of science and engineering programs available throughout the University of Alaska system. For a list of Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited bachelors level and masters level programs, visit: <http://www.abih.org/certified/applicants/ihprograms.html>

Industrial hygiene programs are also available at several universities and colleges accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (<http://www.ehacoffice.org/>) and the Council on Education for Public Health (<http://www.ceph.org/>). Not all universities and colleges accredited by EHAC and/or CEPH have industrial hygiene programs, therefore you will need to contact EHAC and/or CEPH accredited programs to verify whether they have an industrial hygiene program.

### State Contacts:

#### AIHA-Midnight Sun Section

Web site: <http://www.aiha.org/LocalSections/html/midnightsun/index.htm>

#### AK Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers

Website:<http://alaska.asse.org/>

### National Contacts:

#### American Industrial Hygiene Association

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

#### American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists

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

#### American Society of Safety Engineers

Website:<http://www.asse.org/>

