

Environmental Health Programs

FOOD AND POOL

The Food and Pool Safety (FPS) unit aims to prevent foodborne and waterborne illnesses primarily transmitted through contaminated food and ensures that all public pools are safe.

LAND AND WATER

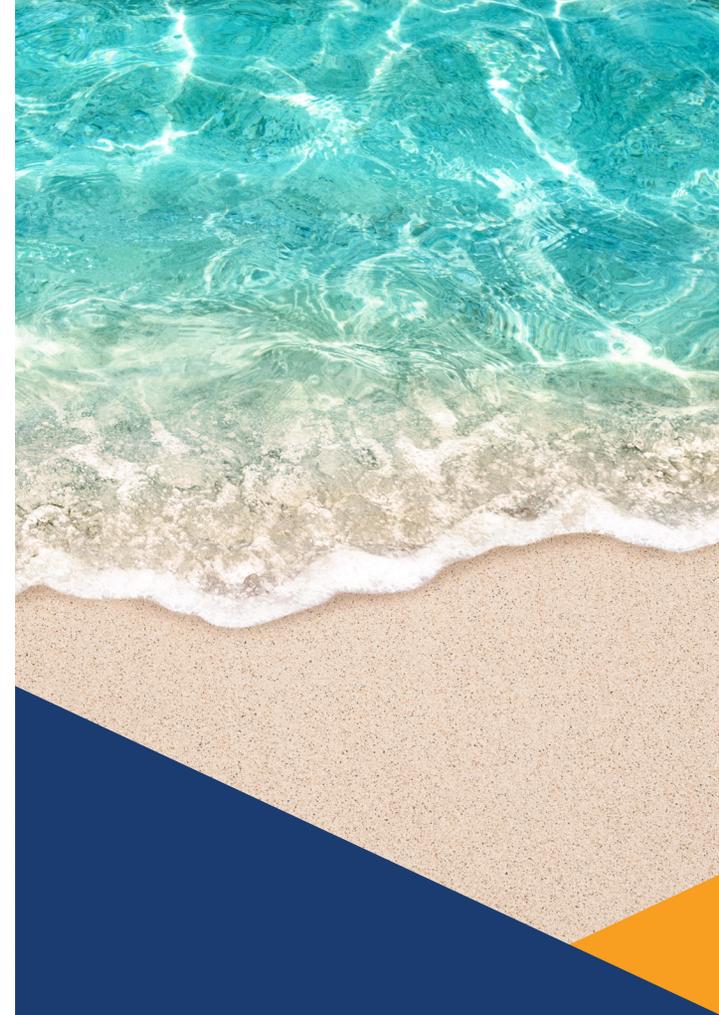
The Land and Water Quality (LWQ) unit aims to protect public health from harmful contaminants in our land and water.

PLAN CHECK

The Plan Check unit reviews design and construction plans for all new and remodeled food facilities and public pools within Orange County to ensure they are constructed in accordance with state and local codes and standards.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The Hazardous Materials unit aims to safeguard public health and safety in Orange County from improper handling, storage, disposal, and accidental releases of hazardous materials and waste.



Careers as an
**Environmental
Health Specialist**



Environmental Health
1241 E. Dyer Rd., Suite 120
Santa Ana, CA 92705-5611

Phone: (714) 433-6000
www.ochealthinfo.com/eh



County of Orange
Environmental Health

What is the Role of an Environmental Health Specialist?

Environmental Health Specialists are public health professionals committed to protecting the health and safety of Orange County residents and visitors.

As an Environmental Health Specialist, you will:

- Conduct routine and follow-up inspections of retail food establishments, public swimming pools, and hotel/motels for regulatory compliance with environmental health and safety standards
- Educate industry operators and the public on environmental health risks and prevention strategies
- Investigate and address health and safety concerns related to Environmental Health
- Enforce local, state, and federal environmental health regulations
- Collaborate with other government agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders
- Prepare detailed reports and maintain accurate records of inspections, investigations, and other activities

Through their work, Environmental Health Specialists play a critical role in preventing illness and promoting health and safety within the community.

What Does It Take to Be an Environmental Health Specialist?

Environmental Health Specialists use scientific knowledge and people skills to protect the health and safety of the community.

Here are the skills that set you apart:

- Strong written and verbal communication skills for effectively conveying information to the business owners and public and collaborating with various stakeholders
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Strong attention to detail
- Ability to demonstrate sound judgment, diplomacy and flexibility when handling difficult situations or changes
- Ability to demonstrate integrity and professionalism in all interactions and decision-making

How to Become an Environmental Health Specialist

- 1 During Undergraduate Studies**
Earn a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Environmental Health, Biology, Microbiology, Chemistry, or related science (30 semester or 45 quarter units of basic science coursework). For details on coursework requirements, visit www.cdph.ca.gov and search "REHS Program"
- 2 After Receiving Your Bachelor's Degree**
Submit a completed Environmental Health Specialist Registration Application and the required non-refundable fee to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). CDPH will review your transcripts to determine your eligibility to work as an Assistant Environmental Health Specialist. The evaluation process may take up to six weeks.
- 3 Upon Receiving Your Letter of Eligibility**
Apply for an Assistant Environmental Health Specialist with the County of Orange Health Care Agency to receive training and begin gaining hands-on experience in the field. To explore opportunities, visit: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/oc>
- 4 Upon Being Hired as an Assistant Environmental Health Specialist**
As a full-time Assistant Environmental Health Specialist, you'll gain valuable experience and complete required training hours outlined in your State Letter of Eligibility, preparing you to take the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) exam.
- 5 Upon Completion of Required Experience and Training**
You'll become eligible to take the REHS exam, offered three times per year (March, July, and November). Passing the exam certifies you as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and promotes you to Environmental Health Specialist I, officially launching your public health career.

