

What are the roles of an Environmental Health Department?

Environmental Health Departments may have different areas of responsibility in different jurisdictions, but all of the following programs are in the field of environmental health.

Food Protection: Through the permitting and inspection of retail food businesses, REHS's ensure compliance with State and local regulations pertaining to food safety and sanitation. REHS's may also provide food safety training, conduct plan reviews, and investigate complaints regarding food safety and sanitation.

Recreational Areas and Bathing Facilities: Through outreach, inspection, and enforcement, REHS's work to eliminate physical, chemical, and bacteriological hazards at public pools, and spas.

Housing: REHS's may conduct housing complaint investigations, detention facility inspections and farm labor camp/employee housing inspections. The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is also often a part of the housing program.

Hazardous Materials and Wastes Management: REHS's ensure operators comply with State and local regulations that apply to handling hazardous materials. Specific areas of regulation include Underground Storage Tanks, Hazardous Materials Business plans, and Hazardous Wastes and the California Accidental Release Prevention Program. REHS's in this program are also often members of a Hazardous Materials Incident Response Team.

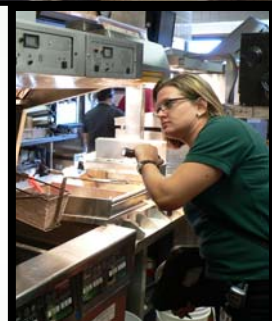
Solid Waste: REHS's in the solid waste program ensure that laws are followed with regard to the operation of landfills, transfer stations, recycling facilities and programs, and medical waste management.

Drinking Water: REHS's in this program work to ensure that businesses and home-owners comply with all State and local laws that apply to groundwater. Wells are monitored during installation and destruction and routine inspections of small water systems are conducted.

Liquid Waste Management: REHS's in this program issue permits, conduct inspections, and investigate complaints related to septic systems, sewage pumper trucks, and wastewater reclamation systems.

Storm Water: REHS's in this program conduct storm water compliance inspections to ensure compliance with the requirements of local storm water ordinances that require businesses to prevent the discharge of pollutants into storm drainage systems.

Other programs some jurisdictions may oversee: Noise Control, Pest and Vector Control, Land use, Air Quality, Radiation Protection, and more...



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Underground Storage Tanks
Hazardous Materials

