

**Safety and Occupational Health Specialist
GS-0018-09**

Standard Job #018-09

Typical, but not all-inclusive, duties are illustrated by performance of any combination of the following:

Serves as Chairperson of the Safety and Health Committee, keeping the committee informed of safety regulations as they apply to the location research sites and activities.

Serves as contact person for vendor(s) under contract for hazardous waste disposal. Coordinates packaging and organizes program for hazardous waste disposal.

Reviews Chemical Hygiene Plans developed in individual research programs. Develops a rapid response plan for chemical spills and safety related emergencies for the location. Insures that chemical inventories are accurately maintained by each user. Organizes and maintains Material Safety Data Sheets collection for all chemicals in use at the location.

Prepares and maintains accurate documentation/record of all safety-related matters to assure compliance with State and Federal regulations.

Provides information and assistance to the Location Radiation Safety Officer.

Coordinates Occupational Health Maintenance Program insuring that individuals working with chemicals participate.

Joins the Cluster Safety Officer in annual safety inspections, intermittently conducts independent inspections of offices and laboratories, and assists in actions to be taken to avoid accidents and injuries. Analyzes and evaluates findings and recommends corrective measures to the appropriate Research Leader.

Provides informal instruction to employees covering a variety of safety and occupational health subjects including chemical, biological and physical safety, and various laboratory safety needs and ventilation requirements.

Establishes and maintains safety training and safety orientation for all new employees, including films, pamphlets, etc. Insures that safety orientation and appropriate safety materials are given to student workers as well as Federal employees.

Analyzes accident and injury reports, studying data to discover trends and mishap causes, and develop recommendations for eliminating or controlling the hazards detected.

Reviews safety information from regulations and on computer Internet/World Wide Web; relates pertinent items to location staff.

Coordinates regular inspection and maintenance of safety equipment at the location, including fire extinguishers, fume-hoods, and pesticide application protective gear and respirators.

B. Evaluation Factors

1. Knowledge Required by the Position (FLD 1-6, 950 pts.)

Knowledge and skill in presenting safety-related information to groups in a training environment in a positive, non-adversarial manner.

Knowledge of general administrative practices and procedures to interpret and apply basic standards, criteria, and operating instructions to specific unsafe acts and conditions within a complex research environment.

Knowledge of organic and physical chemistry, the health effects of toxic compounds and hazardous materials, and the proper use, storage, and disposal of these materials (including radioisotopes).

Knowledge of principal inspection and survey techniques sufficient to identify occupational hazards and determine elements giving rise to mishaps.

Knowledge of codes, regulations, laws, and standards required for compliance with EPA, OSHA, and all Federal, State and local authorities.

Knowledge of laboratory procedures relevant to the research programs of the location, including safety issues specific to chemistry, biochemistry, and microbiological laboratories.

Knowledge of basic safety and occupational health principles, common hazards and protective measures, including safety devices, sufficient to provide informal training sessions and appropriate educational materials to employees.

2. Supervisory Controls (FLD 2-3, 275 pts.)

The supervisor assigns surveys and administrative tasks together with instructions as to objectives, priorities, possible problems and deadlines.

The specialist plans repetitive onsite inspections conferring with the supervisor, Research Leader, or scientist involved on difficult or unusual situations.

The work results are reviewed by the supervisor to ensure that the methods and procedures selected are technically sound and in accordance with accepted criteria.

3. Guidelines (FLD 3-3, 275 pts.)

The guidelines include agency operating procedures, previous inspection reports, safety and occupational health standards, textbooks, safety publications, Code of Federal Regulations, and pertinent literature.

The specialist independently searches for applicable reference criteria which may only partially cover the hazards encountered, requiring modification and judgment to complete the assignment.

4. Complexity (FLD 4-3, 150 pts.)

Assignments involve surveys of research projects of a conventional nature requiring the identification and appraisal of a variety of hazardous conditions.

The type and degree of exposure found must be evaluated to ascertain its potential for harm to individuals and damage to property.

The specialist recommends corrective measures to supervisors and employees from among many alternative but established techniques.

5. Scope and Effect (FLD 5-3, 150 pts.)

The purpose of the work is to survey research activities at the location involving review of facilities, standard operating procedures, day-to-day activities, and recommend measures and techniques to resolve identified hazards.

Work results affect the adequacy of the location's safety and occupational health program, the safety of employees, and the effectiveness of the measures applied to control or eliminate potential damage to property.

6. Personal Contacts (FLD 6-2, 25 pts.)

Contacts are made with employees at all levels in the agency, including headquarters, area and location personnel, project leaders, research leaders, support personnel; technical experts; and other Federal agencies such as the DOL, OSHA, EPA; local and state agencies and related professional organizations.

7. Purpose of Contacts (FLD 7-3, 120 pts.)

Contacts are for the purpose of motivating and encouraging all location employees to apply and observe safety and health practices; advise and coordinate employee safety and health matters; discuss and exchange information on safety, health, accidents, injuries, illnesses, claims, etc.; and obtain or clarify information on controversial issues.

8. Physical Demands (FLD 8-2, 20 pts.)

A significant amount of work is performed in an office environment. However, inspection of facilities frequently involves climbing ladders, working on roofs, etc., and crouching and crawling under structures. There may be need for the incumbent to lift and carry moderately heavy objects.

9. Work Environment (FLD 9-2, 20 pts.)

Although most work is performed in an office, on-site inspections involve exposure to hazardous chemicals, moving equipment, heights, closed spaces, etc. A fair degree of potential risk is involved. The incumbent is required to wear protective clothing/equipment at times.

C. Other Considerations (Check if applicable)

- Supervisory Responsibilities (EEO Statement)
- Training Activities - Career Intern, Student Career Experience Program
- Motor Vehicle or Commercial Driver's License Required
- Pesticide Applicators License Required
- Safety/Radiological Safety Collateral Duties
- EEG Collateral Duties
- Drug Test Required
- Vaccine(s) Required
- Financial Disclosure Required
- Special Physical Requirements/Demands
- Other:

TOTAL POINTS - 1985
(GS-9 Range: 1,855 – 2,100 points)
August 13, 1996