

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/RECYCLING TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, coordinates and staffs household hazardous waste (HHW) program activities; assists in hazardous materials incident emergency response and compliance; assists in collection events relating to the collection, storage and transport of hazardous chemicals; ensures proper disposal of solid waste, promotes recycling and interacts with the public and other agencies; performs related work as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Hazardous Materials/Recycling Technician is responsible for performing, coordinating and planning household hazardous waste and other solid waste and recycling program activities, transporting household hazardous waste materials and maintaining appropriate records. This class is distinguished from Solid Waste Technician by the responsibility for coordinating household hazardous waste program activities. This class is further distinguished from Hazardous Materials/Recycling Specialist in that the latter is a skilled professional class, responsible for implementing Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA), Local Oversight Program (LOP) and sections of the County's Hazardous Materials Ordinance and Integrated Waste Management Plan.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES (Illustrative Only)

- Coordinates and serves as site supervisor for household hazardous waste collection activities; trains and orients staff; segregates, packages, transports and stores waste; maintains records of collection and destruction of waste.
- Schedules household hazardous waste pick-up; transports household hazardous waste; prepares state forms and reports, and maintains records of transport; ensures transport vehicles are inspected as required.
- Sets up collection centers; assists sites to prepare plans and apply for certification.
- Participates in coordinating, monitoring and reporting on recycling programs and sites.
- Maintains household hazardous waste and used oil collection equipment, facilities and grounds.
- Performs basic sample collection, laboratory testing and analytical procedures for chemical, physical and biological concentrations; packages samples for outside analysis.
- Operates, maintains and repairs equipment; performs diagnosis of equipment failures; provides assistance in equipment removal and installation.
- Responds to emergency calls both during and outside of normal business hours; assists with clean-up of minor chemical spills.
- Safely operates a variety of vehicles and equipment.
- Reduces litter on roadways, business areas and neighborhood by responding to solid waste complaints
- Makes onsite visits to assess complaint, communicates with property owners and responsible parties, prepare written reports.
- Participates in recycling and grant programs coordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- Performs technical office and field support work for higher level Hazardous Materials/Recycling/Solid Waste staff.
- Implements hazardous materials and recycling regulations.
- Assists with field investigations by recording data, collecting test samples, and preparing written summaries of findings.
- Promotes understanding of and compliance with Federal, State and local regulatory mandates through interaction with the public at collection events and responses to solid waste complaints.
- Utilizes personal protective equipment, field analytical and material control equipment to protect public and environment from effects of hazardous materials release.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Laws and regulations governing hazardous material, and recycling programs.
- Laws, rules, regulations, principles and practices of solid waste management, storage, disposal, reuse, reduction and recycling
- Laws, rules and regulations related to storage and transportation of hazardous chemicals and gases.
- Safe work methods and safety practices pertaining to the work, including site safety procedures.
- Use and care of control, containment, packaging and personal protective equipment.
- Use and care of monitoring tools for air, liquids and solids.
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- Basic record keeping principles and practices.
- Investigative practices as pertaining to hazardous materials investigations.
- Techniques for dealing with people of all socio-economic levels in tense and stressful situations.

Skill in:

- Planning and coordinating household hazardous material collection and other waste management and recycling programs.
- Safely segregating, packaging, storing and transporting hazardous materials.
- Performing a variety of skilled operations including maintaining and repairing hazmat emergency response and household hazardous waste equipment.
- Interpreting and applying state and federal regulations.
- Utilizing independent judgment in responding to and resolving public comments and complaints.
- Interpreting and applying safety rules and operating and maintenance instructions; being able to assemble, operate, maintain and perform simple repairs on basic equipment and apparatuses.
- Performing basic sample collection and laboratory testing work including gathering, assembling and analyzing data.
- Preparing and maintaining a variety of accurate written records, special reports, and studies, and preparing clear and concise reports, correspondence and other written materials pertaining to the work.
- Establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of the work.
- Following complex oral and written directions.
- Reading maps and following directions.
- Communicating effectively with members of the public; dealing with individuals in stressful situations.

Other Requirements:

Must complete a hazardous materials technician course within the first year of employment. Must possess and keep current a valid driver's license with a Class C HAZMAT endorsement. May be required to obtain a commercial license. Must be willing to be on-call and work weekends, evenings and holidays. Must be willing to regularly work with hazardous materials and wastes requiring the use of respiratory protection. Must be willing to respond to emergency situations during off-hours as required.

Education and Experience:

Equivalent to possession of an Associate of Science degree with major coursework in biology, chemistry, environmental science or a closely related field, and one year of working with hazardous materials at a level equivalent to the County's class of Waste Management Technician II. Additional experience working with hazardous materials may be substituted for education on a year for year basis.

OR

Possession of a Bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, environmental science or closely related field.

NOTE: The above qualifications are a typically accepted way of obtaining the required knowledge and skills.