U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Federal Occupational Health

Environmental Health Services

Federal Occupational Health (FOH) assists federal managers in establishing and maintaining safe, healthy, and productive work environments for their employees. FOH's environmental health specialists, located throughout the country, provide environmental health and industrial hygiene consultations and services in a timely and cost effective manner.

FOH is a non-appropriated agency that provides occupational health and wellness services exclusively to federal employees. FOH was created by Congress in 1946 by an amendment to the Public Health Service Act (42 USC), and is a service unit within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Program Support Center. Our **mission** is to improve the health, safety, and productivity of the federal workforce.

FOH can integrate its services with your existing programs, enhancing their impact and ensuring that your agency meets its obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Among the environmental health and industrial hygiene services FOH offers are:

Agency Safety and Health Programs

FOH will help you identify ways in which to improve your safety and health programs, educate managers about the importance of and requirements for ensuring that employees are safe and healthy in the workplace, and develop abatement strategies to ensure agency compliance with existing regulations.

Industrial Hygiene Hazard Assessment

FOH's experts provide personal exposure assessments and abatement strategies for physical, chemical, radiological, and biological stressors. Assessments can be based on evaluating data from prior studies or sampling may be conducted as needed. Results are compared to current standards and recommended values. Abatement strategies will be practical, economical and designed to fit your organization's specific needs.

Laboratory Services

FOH's environmental laboratories provide high quality, cost-effective analytical support to federal managers. FOH's state-of-the-art laboratories specialize in industrial hygiene, environmental, microbiological, asbestos, and fine particle analyses. The labs are fully accredited and managed and run by experienced and highly trained laboratory professionals.

Environmental Surveys

FOH's experts can assist you in meeting the requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as well as the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). FOH can also provide preliminary assessments, site investigations, and facility assessments, as may be required by federal, state, or local government agencies.

Indoor Air Quality Evaluations

FOH can investigate and evaluate situations where building occupants experience health problems that appear to be linked to the building. Evaluations may consist of performing building assessments, conducting tenant meetings to identify and discuss potential problem areas and address concerns, and analyzing clinical and epidemiological data to identify and address complex problems.

Personal Protective Equipment

FOH can evaluate current or help develop and implement new personal protective equipment (PPE) programs, including a respiratory protection program as required in 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.139. FOH's environmental and industrial hygiene experts can help develop or suggest improvements to PPE Program elements including hazard assessments, fit testing, training on the selection, use, limitations, and maintenance of equipment and equipment procurement.

Hearing Conservation

FOH's professionals can develop and assist in the implementation of your agency-specific hearing conservation program. In accordance with OSHA's standard 1910.95, FOH will provide noise exposure assessments, noise exposure monitoring, octave band analyses, noise engineering surveys, consultation on the procurement, fitting, and training in the use of hearing protective devices, and audiometric testing.

Asbestos

FOH's certified inspectors provide a variety of asbestos-related services, including management plans, building profiles, training, air monitoring, abatement oversight, sample analysis and recordkeeping, all in accordance with OSHA and EPA standards. Samples can be analyzed immediately on-site or at FOH's certified asbestos laboratory.

Hazard Communication

FOH's professionals can help you meet the requirements of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200) by providing personnel training, inventory of hazardous materials, material safety data sheets, inventory data management, program evaluations, and hazardous material control.

Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response

OSHA's 29 CFR 1910.120 standard applies to employees working in uncontrolled hazardous waste sites, in waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities, and employees responding to the accidental release of hazardous substances. FOH's experts can help in the development of all appropriate program elements including written safety and health programs, training, personal protective equipment programs, and emergency response plans.

Lead

FOH can educate your Agency's managers and employees about the hazards of lead in drinking water, working safely with lead, and the safe removal of lead-based paint. In addition, FOH can conduct air monitoring and blood-lead sample analyses to determine possible lead exposure. If your agency must comply with Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (Section 403), FOH can help develop lead abatement programs, design lead management plans, and provide lead abatement oversight.

FOH, the Occupational Health Provider of Choice for the Federal Government

The mission of FOH is to improve the health, safety, and productivity of the federal workforce. Created by Congress in 1946, FOH is a non-appropriated service agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Program Support Center.

Federal agencies throughout the U.S. and overseas can access FOH services. FOH provides worksite health services, Wellness/Fitness, Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), Work/Life, Environmental Health and Safety, Organizational and Professional Development, and Training and Education.

Make Federal Occupational Health your partner in building a healthier, more productive work force. For more information, please visit us at **www.foh.dhhs.gov** or call us today at **1-800-457-9808.**