

ENS Scott Daly
Jr. COSTEP Summer 2009
Illinois State University
Phoenix Indian Medical Center
Phoenix, AZ

My JRCOSTEP experience this summer was the best professional experience I could have had before I graduated. It is impossible to explain the impact this experience has had on my future career, and the amount of knowledge I gained over the summer is incalculable. Day in and day out I enjoyed the work I was doing and the people I was doing the work with.

My primary duty station was at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center where I worked in the Environmental Health and Safety Office. It was here, under the guidance of my supervisor Leonard Lopez, I was exposed to numerous aspects of institutional environmental health. My duties included investigating WebCidents, conducting fire drills in the business occupancy buildings, performing weekly hazardous surveillance surveys of the hospital, updating the online database of MSDS, and attending administration meetings like the Quality Council, Environment of Care, and Safety Committee Meetings.



The WebCident investigations were interesting because it allowed me to interact with many different people and professions around the hospital. Every time there is a worker injury, visitor injury, or security issue at the hospital, a WebCident is required to be filled out and submitted online. These were submitted to the Environmental Health and Safety Office and I had to go and investigate them. The WebCident investigations allowed me to think outside the box to help come up with corrective actions to insure future injuries do not occur.

The fire drills were a significant learning event for me this summer because I have never conducted one before. I performed fire drills for all of the business occupancy buildings on the Phoenix Indian Medical Center campus and at the Salt River Clinic. I had to coordinate between the department supervisor, switchboard, maintenance department, and security to ensure the drill could be run properly. During the drill, I would observe the employees as they implemented their fire plan and review and discuss the drill with them after it was completed.

The hazard surveillance surveys were conducted once a week by a team comprised of the department supervisor, safety officer, infectious control nurse, and a housekeeping representative. Each member of the team was responsible to inspect an area of the hospital for problems in their areas of work. My role as a safety officer was to identify any hazards or unsafe working conditions in the workplace. Once the inspection was completed, there was a meeting with the supervisor and the correct actions were discussed and implemented.



This internship also afforded me to gain field experience through the Western Arizona District Office. I was able to participate in several food surveys, mosquito trappings, and a rabies clinic. I also participated in a Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) prevention campaign conducted throughout the San Carlos Apache Reservation. The proven tick control measures administrated during the campaign helped reduce the public's exposure to the emerging RMSF risk. The campaign included the treatment of nearly 200 homes

with pesticide, over 100 dogs that received tick collars, and RMSF prevention education to numerous community members. Perhaps the most exciting field experience I had this summer was the last week when I went to Havasupai Reservation at the bottom of the Grand Canyon for five days. This trip was amazing in so many different ways. The work included training the new Animal Control Officer, mosquito trapping, a campground inspection, food inspection of the market, food handlers' training which I taught, and an inspection of the jail.

This summer was truly a great experience for me. The JRCOSTEP gave me real world experience that I would have never received in a classroom. Moreover, the JRCOSTEP reassured me that I made the right choice for a future career. I enjoyed working with the USPHS this summer and I met so many wonderful people that I hope I can work full time with them in the future.