

Intern Jasmine Perea
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Alaska Pacific University
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
Sitka, Alaska

My name is Jasmine Perea, and I will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Public Health (EPH) from Alaska Pacific University (APU), May 2023. APU is in Anchorage, AK where I have grown up half my life. I am originally from Seward, AK and have family ties throughout the entire North Slope Borough. Through my education journey I have become more dedicated to public service especially in Alaska Native communities.

During the months of June and July I was an intern for Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) in the environmental health and safety department. SEARHC provides healthcare along with additional service to Southeast communities in Alaska. My job as the extern was to create safety compliance quick cards, inventory of the safety department's equipment closet, job hazard analysis, handling hazard materials and assist in landfill inspections and help with fire safety guide videos.

Going into this position I immediately started online training for intro to hazardous materials, HAZMAT shipping papers, 3E online safety data sheets, respirator fit test training and rural Alaska landfill administration. I received a total of six certificates in my first week to help prepare me for the rest of my work experience. Every Friday from this point on I oversaw the fit-testing program.

After getting all my general training, I created three safety compliance quick cards (SCQC). The environmental health and safety department gets asked a lot of repetitive questions regarding safety. The department came up with SCQC's and made them accessible to employees at SEARHC. I choose to do my SCQCs on ergonomics, black RCRA containers and red medical waste disposal bags. Additionally, during this time I started updating the 3E online safety data sheets (SDS), digitizing operation manuals and distributing disposable mask to assisted living facilities in the consortium.

Furthermore, I spent three days on Prince of Wales Island where I assisted with landfill inspections and got an introduction to various wastewater treatment plants and water plants. During my time on Prince of Wales we visited Craig, Kasaan, Klawock, Hydaburg and Thorne Bay. During landfill inspections we used Alaska Department of Environment Health (ADEC) community waste index. This index is made accessible to landfill operators to evaluate their landfill throughout the year and make incremental changes.

Moving forward from there I continued to reach out to facilities throughout the consortium to update their SDS inventory. I also spent a few days this week organizing and creating an inventory for the safety department's equipment closet. Moreover, I utilized the online tool iAuditor to create inspection templates for childcare inspection reports, community waste management index and food establishment inspections for the environmental health and safety department.

Closing my time at SEARHC I spent a week with at risk adolescents' sea kayaking to create a job hazard analysis for Ravens Way. Ravens Way is a residential treatment program for youth experiencing substance abuse. My job was to identify the potential or existing hazards during the trip and write suggestions on how the program can approve. Overall, the experience was life changing and very motivating for me. My time at SEARHC was a great way to start my public health journey.