

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
PORTLAND AREA
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (DEHS)

Institutional Environmental Health Program

The Portland Area Division of Environmental Health Services works to protect building occupants from chemical, biological, radiological, and ergonomic hazards through the Institutional Environmental Health Program. The Institutional Environmental Health Program assesses federal and Tribal health programs and facilities to ensure patients are treated in a safe environment of care, and that healthcare workers are protected from illness and injury in their place of work. Objectives and activities include the following:

RISK ASSESSMENT AND HAZARD CONTROL

Healthcare organization accreditation, infection control, and OSHA regulatory compliance are priorities for the DEHS. The Institutional Environmental Health Officer provides the following services and activities:

- Environment of Care and Infection Control Program Reviews
- Occupational Health and Safety Management Surveys and Program Reviews
- Mock AAAHC surveys as part of Portland Area accreditation readiness team
 - Providing assistance during on-site accreditation surveys
- Infection control and employee health risk assessments
 - TB / Respiratory Protection
 - Sterilization process audits
 - Bloodborne Pathogens
- Industrial Hygiene: Exposure Assessments, Indoor Air Quality, Ventilation/Engineering Controls, Mercury, Waste Anesthetic Gases, Nitrous Oxide, Asbestos, Lead, Ergonomics, Noise, Hazardous Drugs and Sterile Preparation Compounding
 - Surveys / Risk Assessments and Monitoring

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AND INVESTIGATION

In the complex environment in which healthcare is delivered, workers and patients may be exposed to multiple hazards. The DEHS reviews population and individual exposure data to determine risk and prevent outbreaks and injuries.

- WebCident/Adverse Incident: Surveillance and Analysis
 - Responding to significant incidents and coordinating and/or conducting investigations
 - Review of incident trends
 - Developing, coordinating and/or implementing interventions to reduce incident occurrence and severity
- Ionizing Radiation Protection
 - Review of film badge dosimetry reports, medical physicist reports, and follow-up of noteworthy exposures.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, AND STUDY

The DEHS advises and consults in planning and policy development related to occupational health and safety science and industrial hygiene.

- Healthcare facility management support for construction and renovation projects
 - Coordinate with health facility engineering and IHS Service Units to receive and review plans throughout the project.
 - Attend pre-construction meetings/calls, as needed
 - Perform on-site walk-throughs to assess for “built” compliance
- OSHA compliance assistance with the hazard communication standard, job hazard analysis, reporting, recordkeeping and training requirements
- Technical assistance and consultation
 - Standards interpretation and application
 - Policy review and development
 - Ongoing program guidance
 - Information sharing
 - Process evaluations
- Training
 - OSHA General Industry 10/30 Hour
 - Safety officer orientation
 - Infection control officer orientation