



Position Qualification for Environmental Response/Health and Safety  
Medical and Public Health

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

<b>RESOURCE CATEGORY</b>	Medical and Public Health
<b>RESOURCE KIND</b>	Personnel
<b>OVERALL FUNCTION</b>	The Environmental Health Specialist provides professional technical assistance, consultation, and support in environmental health specialty areas
<b>COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Environmental Health Team).</li> <li>2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation, and meals, prior to deployment</li> </ol>

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Same as Type 2, PLUS: Provides professional technical assistance, consultation, and support in environmental health specialty areas, including environmental epidemiology, toxicology, and exposure assessment/risk analysis	The Environmental Health Specialist: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assesses and monitors biological and chemical hazards, threats, or risks to human health and safety in water, food, waste, soil, debris, air (indoor and outdoor), vectors and pests, shelters, building environments, and other environmental health-related areas</li> <li>2. Recommends remedial action to correct or mitigate hazards, threats, or risks to human health and safety.</li> </ol>	Not Specified
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Same as Type 2	Bachelor of science degree in environmental science, environmental engineering, public health, biology, biomedical sciences, natural science, physical science, engineering, industrial hygiene, or related field	Not Specified
<b>TRAINING</b>	Same as Type 2	Completion of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100</li> <li>2. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200</li> <li>3. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction</li> <li>4. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction</li> <li>5. Training in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120: Hazardous Materials Awareness</li> <li>6. Training in accordance with the OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.134: Respiratory Protection</li> </ol>	Not Specified



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COMPONENT	TYPE 1	TYPE 2	NOTES
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	Same as Type 2, PLUS: One additional year of specialized experience in an environmental health specialty area, such as environmental epidemiology, toxicology, exposure assessment/risk analysis, or radiation training and response	One year of experience in retail or commercial food inspection and sanitation, vector surveillance and identification, air quality, water quality, emergency food and shelter response, hazardous and infectious materials, environmental health, or equivalent	Not Specified
<b>PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS</b>	Same as Type 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arduous</li> <li>2. Is able to work while wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</li> <li>3. Maintains immunizations in accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) immunization recommendations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System (NQS) defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NIMS positions.</li> <li>2. PPE is mission specific and may vary by work environment; it includes protective footwear, protective clothing for skin exposure, eye and ear protection, respirators, gloves, and masks.</li> </ol>
<b>CURRENCY</b>	Same as Type 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Functions in this position during an operational incident, planned event, exercise, drill, or simulation at least once every two years</li> <li>2. Keeps immunizations up to date and commensurate with mission assignment</li> </ol>	Not Specified
<b>PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS</b>	Same as Type 2	Relevant Environmental Health professional certification or license of legal authority to function in the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), if applicable; granting entity may include state, District of Columbia, tribe, U.S. territory, or professional organization	Professional or specialty certification/license may include Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH), Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), Registered Hazardous Substances Specialist (RHSS), and Certified Professional-Food Safety (CP-FS), or Registered Sanitarian (RS).



## NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated category.

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## REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Environmental Health Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Environmental Health Team Leader
3. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
4. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the National Qualification System, November 2017
5. FEMA, National Response Framework, June 2016
6. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1910.120: Hazardous Materials Awareness, latest edition adopted
7. OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910.134: Respiratory Protection, latest edition adopted
8. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Immunization Recommendations for Disaster Responders