

Target Group:



Occupational Profile

Environmental Health Specialist

Standard Occupational Code 19-2041.00

What They Do

Conduct research or perform investigation for the purpose of identifying, abating, or eliminating sources of pollutants or hazards that affect either the environment or the health of the population. Using knowledge of various scientific disciplines, may collect, synthesize, study, report, and recommend action based on data derived from measurements or observations of air, food, soil, water, and other sources.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Realistic – involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

Investigative – involve working with ideas, and require an extensive amount of thinking.

Conventional – involve following set procedures and routines.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:

Achievement – results oriented and allow employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Independence – allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

Recognition – offer advancement, potential for leadership, and are often considered prestigious.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Comprehension
- Written Comprehension
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Expression

Skills You Need

- Active Listening
- Critical Thinking
- Reading Comprehension
- Science
- Speaking

Education & Training

Environmental health specialists need a **bachelor’s degree in environmental management, environmental science, environmental engineering, biology, or related program.**

Requirements for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	5
Reading for Information	5
Locating Information	5

Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of environmental health specialists are:

- State Government
- State Government Educational Services
- Management and Technical Consulting Services
- Local Government
- Architectural and Engineering Services

SD Employment & Wages

2014 Workers	2024 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Demand for Workers	Median Annual Wage
270	300	30	12%	10	\$55,650

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.gov/mic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetcenter.org

mySkills myFuture

www.myskillsmyfuture.org

Provided BY

Labor Market Information Center
 South Dakota Dept. of Labor Regulation
 605.626.2314

Visit www.dlr.sd.gov/mic and choose Career Exploration & Planning from the left-hand menu, then Hot Careers to obtain most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in the work interests, work values, abilities and skills sections of this occupational profile.

Updated March 2017.