

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The PUBLIC HEALTH TOXICOLOGIST serves as the Department specialist on human health effects from environmental and occupational or other toxic substances.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.Data Analysis and Interpretation.** Typical tasks: researches relevant published or unpublished scientific literature on the human toxicity of chemical and biological compounds and substances including research through current computerized resource libraries; consults with other peers in the field to validate findings, results, and conclusions in interpreting scientific data; oversees design and implementation of field investigations which sample, test, and monitor for the presence, concentration, persistence of health effect of a toxic substance; analyzes and interprets data using statistical principles and techniques.
- 2.Technical Assistance.** Typical tasks: provides toxicological expertise for statewide environmental health programs including assessing health risks and setting standards; reviews and comments on proposed human toxicity projects; proposes Department goals, objectives, policies, guidelines and legislation related to human toxicity from chemical and biological compounds and substances; advises on ways of assessing relative human health risks; interprets and provides results of data/studies to staff in terms of toxicological properties of substances and associated human health hazards; assists Public Affairs staff in developing educational/informational materials for elected officials, schools, citizen groups, and the general public on hazardous materials and human health; writes technical reports describing methodologies and findings of research or studies for use by Department staff, other technical experts or publication in scientific or professional journals; reviews and comments on human risk assessment and risk management reports; supervises development of visual aids (tables, charts, graphs, etc.) to present or summarize appropriate data or conclusions; develops and presents oral presentations to Department staff, the public, or to other State, local, or Federal agencies; trains Department staff in general principles of human toxicology; serves as advisor to Department appointed or interagency advisory committees.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class have regular contact with Department staff, national professional organizations, professional peers nationwide, the Oregon Poison Control Center, OSU School of Agricultural Chemistry, Health Division, Epidemiology Section and county health department physicians to discuss problems or projects, propose solutions, and provide technical interpretations and expertise; and contact with the public, private physicians and other local, State and Federal officials to provide information on the environmental hazards of toxic substances.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class receive general supervision from the Division Administrator or Department Director primarily for setting priorities, to provide guidance and direction and to review the quality and quantity of work. Employees are expected to work independently without direct supervision. Employees use Oregon Revised Statutes, Administrative Rules, Federal laws and regulations, and Department policies and procedures. Guidelines are limited. Employees in this class are responsible for developing and identifying internal procedures, guidelines, and protocol.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)

Extensive knowledge of the principles of human and environmental toxicology.

Extensive knowledge of statistical principles for interpreting data.

General knowledge of physiology.

General knowledge of biological principles.

General knowledge of chemistry.

General knowledge of the principles of risk assessment and management.

Skill in establishing program objectives and directing implementation of programs.

Skill in analyzing medical or environmental toxicological literature.

Skill in designing and conducting toxicological surveys and studies.

Skill in preparing clear and concise written reports of technical subject matter.

Skill in making effective oral presentations of technical subject matter.

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 4/90

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.