



REHS Program Update January 2007

Continuing Education Regulations

The Office of Regulations and Office of Legal Services, California Department of Health Services (CDHS) have completed a review of the proposed continuing education regulations. A current copy of the proposal can be found on the REHS web site. The public comment period will not be scheduled until the regulation package has been approved by several state control agencies including the Office of Administrative Law and Department of Finance. We will keep you informed on the progress of the regulation package through the California Environmental Health Association, California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, and CDHS internet page. To ensure a timely and smooth adoption of the continuing education requirement the Registration Program is in the process of developing an implementation plan.

Fee Increase

Senate Bill 1759 has been chaptered and provides additional funding for the REHS Program by increasing fees for biennial registration renewal, new applicants, and examinations. Fees from the proposed increases will be used to support the continuing education requirement.

Recruitment

DHS has a database of all certifiable REHS applicants since July 2003. These applicants have received their certification letter and are eligible to work as trainees. We will provide their mailing labels sorted by zip code or alphabetical for a fee of \$50. Currently we have over 1000 in this database. We also

have produced a PowerPoint presentation suitable for any jurisdiction within California to use either as a continuous loop for a career fair or in a classroom setting. The continuous loop version has titles on each slide whereas the standard version has full pictures with speaker notes.

CEHA Annual Educational Symposium

REHS program staff will participate in the CEHA Annual Educational Symposium in Sacramento by helping to arrange and promote the Student Forum. The Forum at last year's AES was a great success with presentations by Brenda Faw, Director of Tuolumne County; Todd Frantz, Food Safety Manager at Disneyland; Christine Graulau, Hazardous Waste Program Manager for the US Navy; and Janis McBride, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist in Orange County.

Listing of Active REHS

The current listing on the REHS web site of active REHS will be posted February 15, 2007. The list includes the name, REHS # and expiration date for current and active Registered Environmental Health Specialists. The list will include all REHS with expiration dates 12/31/2007 and 12/31/2008.

Training Coordinator Meetings

Training Coordinator meetings are facilitated by CDHS two or three times a year. Currently the group is developing a comprehensive outline of the information needed by a new REHS. The process involves using the knowledge and skill statements developed during the job analysis as a starting point and expanding on them until a complete description of the program responsibilities emerges. An outline for the Food and Consumer Protection program was developed at the October 2005 meeting; Inspections & Investigations and Recreational Health were drafted on May 8, 2006 at the AES. General science and drinking water will be finalized in February 2007.

New Location for REHS Exam

The REHS exam location will be moved from California State University Dominguez Hills to California State University, Northridge starting in November 2006. The administration and staff at California State University, Dominguez Hills have been very generous and helpful for the many years we have used their facilities. The new location will help to strengthen our relationship with CSUN, which has the largest environmental health student population.

The REHS exam is continually updated by adding new questions and revising existing questions, if you are interested in participating submit your resume to:

California Department of Health
Services
Environmental Health Specialist
Registration Program
Subject Matter Expert Panel
MS 7404
P.O. Box 997413,
Sacramento, CA 95899-7413

If you have any questions regarding registration, renewals and other issues please contact Margaret Blood at (916) 552-9991
