

Occupational Health and Industrial Hygiene (OH/IH)

What is Occupational Health? To preserve and promote health of civilian personnel while preventing and reducing personnel illnesses from work related exposure to chemical, biological and physical hazards. 15,000 out of 28,000 Federal Technicians have been identified as working with occupational hazards. Medical Surveillance program management is managed for these employees IAW Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1910 and 1960. Occupational Health professionals the following programs: respiratory protection, hearing conservation, vision conservation, radiation exposed employee monitoring, reproductive health conservation, injury management, return to work, epidemiology (public health patterns), unhealthy working condition abatement, design review, ergonomics, health promotion, automated external defibrillator (AED) management and lead, cadmium, chromium and asbestos monitoring.

What is Industrial Hygiene? Industrial hygienists evaluate potential chemical, physical and biological workplace hazards in more than 3,000 facilities in all 54 States and Territories. This includes 2,890 Readiness Centers, 43 Armed Forces Reserve Centers (AFRC), 728 Field Maintenance Shops (FMS), 130 Combined Support Maintenance Shops (CSMS), 54 Maneuver Area Training Equipment Sites (MATES), 61 Unit Training Equipment Sites (UTES), and 88 Army Aviation Support Facilities (AASF). In addition to primary workplace structures, these facilities have over 27,000 secondary structures and 41 major training centers. Although the 27,000 structures do not require a full annual industrial hygiene survey, they do need to be evaluated for potential workplace hazards. As training requirements increase, additional hazards require surveillance as evidenced by the lead levels found in live fire shoot houses over the permissible exposure limit. Similarly, as more states participate in the maintenance program, more over exposures to cadmium and chromium have been identified.

What has the ARNG done? Provide 54 Occupational Health Nurse positions to manage state programs and four regional Industrial Hygienists to contract industrial hygiene surveys.

What continued efforts does the ARNG have planned for the future? The ARNG remains committed to support the occupational health and industrial hygiene statutory services for federal employees of the ARNG. Continued efforts in the occupational health programs and the Federal Employee Compensation Act will decrease workman's compensation costs.

Why is this important to the Army? Ensuring healthy working conditions for federal employees by obtaining and maintaining statutory compliance with Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1910 and 1960. These programs are also regulated by (DoDI) 6055.1, DoDI 6055.05, Army Regulation 40-5, Army Regulation 385-10 and other applicable federal, state, and local statutes.