

# Career Paths in Safety



The primary focus of safety practice is to prevent incidents and accidents that may lead to injuries, illnesses, damage to property and equipment, or harm to the environment. Many companies have combined safety, health, and environmental matters into a single department. While there are many opportunities for people to participate in safety matters on a part-time basis, most career positions are full-time positions.

There are several safety positions with different levels of responsibility in a safety career path. Each advancing level typically requires higher levels of experience, education, and knowledge and skills in leadership, business practices, safety and health, and communication and information technology.

A number of surveys report that job satisfaction in the safety field is high. Typically, according to the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP), 90% of respondents say they are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their careers in safety. The reasons often include varying responsibilities on a daily basis and being able to contribute to the welfare of others.

The salary for safety professionals varies significantly on level of education, experience, training, and professional credentials. The annual salary for an entry-level position generally ranges from \$30,000-\$50,000. As safety professionals gain experience and credentials, an annual salary may generally exceed \$50,000 and may even exceed \$80,000.

This brochure gives a brief overview of the most common careers in occupational safety and health-related fields.

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## Safety Consultant

### Overview

Health and safety consultants develop, maintain, and protect health and safety standards within public and private organizations in accordance with current health and safety legislation.

Health and safety consultants are employed by a wide range of public and private sector organizations including hospitals, hotels, restaurants, construction/engineering companies, manufacturers, and large private companies.

### Typical Responsibilities

- ◇ Develop programs to protect employees, contractors and the general public
- ◇ Evaluate work methods and procedures to ensure compliance with safety standards
- ◇ Write/evaluates policies and procedures
- ◇ Conduct compliance inspections and consultations with vendors/contractors
- ◇ Represent company in safety-related regulatory inspections
- ◇ Develop, maintain, and present safety training programs
- ◇ Assist in incident investigations and reviews
- ◇ Conduct incident investigations when they involve significant losses, injuries, or fatalities
- ◇ Oversee and mentor emergency response teams

### Typical Qualifications

- ◇ Comprehensive knowledge of OSHA rules and regulations
- ◇ Knowledge of ANSI, NFPA Standards, and DOT regulations
- ◇ Strong technical background in at least one of the following EHS disciplines:
  - \* Regulatory/Compliance
  - \* EHS Audits
  - \* Waste characterization/minimization
  - \* Air permitting
- ◇ Recognize health, environmental, and physical hazards
- ◇ Analyze contracts, safety plans, and written procedures to verify relevancy to work environment
- ◇ Interpret complex regulations and codes and apply them to the job
- ◇ Knows/understands technologies to be used to perform sampling for environmental hazards to employees or the public

### Typical Education

- ◇ Bachelor's Degree in engineering, construction, safety or related field
- ◇ Professional safety consultant experience
- ◇ Certified Safety Professional (CSP) designation

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## Safety Manager

### Overview

A safety manager works on job sites and in businesses to prevent accidents. He or she can also be called a “risk manager” since the workplace or job site must be assessed for health and safety risks before any preventive or corrective measures can be implemented.

Writing reports is a main part of a safety manager's job. Every work site evaluation must be recorded in detail. Safety managers must explain in their reports why they made a certain protective decision, such as it was done to comply with a specific law or to address an identified safety problem within the workplace.

### Typical Responsibilities

- ◇ Establish and monitor systems, policies, and procedures to comply with state and federal regulations
- ◇ Facilitate monthly safety meetings
- ◇ Review incident and audit findings to determine and resolve root causes
- ◇ Resolves unsafe/non-compliance situations and practices
- ◇ Identify new safety training needs and develop/coordinate the program
- ◇ Review, evaluate and analyze work environments
- ◇ Provide consultation and expert advice to company on all safety and health matters

### Typical Qualifications

- ◇ Strong verbal and written communication standards
- ◇ Ability to develop and implement policies and procedures and facilitate changes
- ◇ Strong organizational and analytical skills
- ◇ Strong knowledge of manufacturing safety and compliance practices
- ◇ Strong knowledge of OSHA requirements
- ◇ Ability to make good decisions based on combination of analysis, experience, and professional judgment
- ◇ Expert in researching, gathering, and compiling intangible data
- ◇ Experience in managing workers' compensation claims
- ◇ Proficient in using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access

### Typical Education

- ◇ Bachelor's degree in Occupational/Industrial Safety or related field
- ◇ Experience working with OSHA inspectors along with other environmental safety professionals
- ◇ May need OSHA 500, or be a Certified Health and Safety Technician (CHST) or Certified Safety Professional (CSP)

# Career Paths in Safety



## Safety Technician

### Overview

A health and safety technician manages an organization's health and safety activities. The technician's main job is to protect employees, facilities, the public, and the environment from occupational hazards.

Safety technicians are often employed by governments to conduct official inspections and issue non-compliance fines at various organizations. Others work as consultants to industrial companies who do not have technicians on staff.

### Typical Responsibilities

- ◇ Collect data on the safety and health conditions of the workplace
- ◇ Work with occupational health and safety specialists to conduct tests/measure hazards to help prevent harm to work, property, the environment, and the public
- ◇ Work in a variety of settings, such as offices, factories, and mines
- ◇ Inspect, test, and evaluate workplace environments, equipment, and practices to ensure they follow safety standards and government regulations
- ◇ Collect samples of potentially toxic materials for analysis by occupational health and safety specialists
- ◇ Test and identify work areas for potential health and safety hazards
- ◇ Demonstrate correct use of safety equipment.

### Typical Qualifications

- ◇ Able to work with specialists to collect and test samples of possible hazards, such as dust or vapors, in the workplace
- ◇ Understand and adhere to specific safety standards/government regulations
- ◇ Use skills to find solutions to unsafe working conditions/ environmental concerns in the workplace
- ◇ Must be able to travel on a regular basis
- ◇ Must be able to be on their feet for long periods of time
- ◇ Must have technical skills— often work with computers and complex testing equipment

### Typical Education

- ◇ Entry-level positions: high school diploma or equivalent is necessary
- ◇ Advanced-level positions: on-the-job training or formal education (associate's degree or certificate is ideal) in industrial safety is beneficial

# Career Paths in Safety



## Safety Trainer

### Overview

Safety trainer jobs may involve many different occupations, such as the food industry or industrial jobs. A safety trainer educates employees to recognize safety hazards in the workplace.

Construction safety training managers involve overseeing projects at construction sites. Someone with this job evaluates work conditions and methods, as well as materials used on the job.

### Typical Responsibilities

- ◇ Develop and review training materials
- ◇ Maintain and update training materials
- ◇ Deliver safety and health training
- ◇ Design and develop exams to measure participant comprehension
- ◇ Performs task analysis to determine which training is required for employees
- ◇ Interacts with supervision and management to disseminate safety information
- ◇ Facilitate learning through a variety of delivery methods
- ◇ Supervise employees during training
- ◇ Conduct all pre-training prep work, administrate earning schedules, and maintain participant records
- ◇ Exhibit a commitment to continuous learning
- ◇ Ensures compliance with OSHA, company, and customer safety requirements

### Typical Qualifications

- ◇ Knowledge of OSHA, state, and company regulations and safety requirements
- ◇ Computer software experience :Microsoft Office Suite
- ◇ Certified Safety Professional (CSP) or Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) a plus
- ◇ OSHA 500 obtained
- ◇ Must be dependable and trustworthy

### Typical Education

- ◇ Most positions require at least two year degree with training experience
- ◇ Bachelor's degree preferred

# Career Paths in Safety



## Safety Specialist

### Overview

A safety specialist is someone who is responsible for preventing, reducing, and eliminating harmful situations in the workplace. These individuals may be employed by factories, educational facilities, and health care facilities.

### Typical Responsibilities

- ◇ Analyze many types of work environments and work procedures
- ◇ Inspect workplaces for adherence to regulations on safety, health, and the environment
- ◇ Design programs to prevent disease or injury to workers and damage to the environment
- ◇ Identify chemical, physical, radiological, and biological hazards in the workplace
- ◇ Collect samples of potentially toxic materials for analysis
- ◇ Inspect/evaluate workplace environments and equipment to ensure safety standards and government regulations are being followed
- ◇ Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work conditions
- ◇ Investigate accidents to identify their causes and to determine how it might be prevented
- ◇ Examine lighting, equipment, ventilation, and other conditions that may affect employee health, comfort, or performance
- ◇ Develop and conduct employee safety and training programs that cover a range of topics, such as how to respond in an emergency

### Typical Qualifications

- ◇ Communicate safety instructions and concerns to employees and management
- ◇ Work with technicians to collect and test samples of possible hazards in the workplace
- ◇ Must stand on feet for long periods of time and travel regularly
- ◇ Find solutions to unsafe working conditions and environmental concerns
- ◇ Use advanced technology and able to work with complex testing equipment

### Typical Education

- ◇ Bachelor's degree in OSH or related scientific or technical field, such as engineering, biology, or chemistry
- ◇ Some positions require a master's degree in industrial hygiene, health physics, or a related subject
- ◇ Internships not required, but beneficial
- ◇ Training in specific laws or inspection procedures through a combination of class and on-the-job training