



CAREER PROFILE

General Supervisor for Health and Safety Services

EDUCATION AND TRAINING^{1,2}

- Bachelor's degree in occupational health and safety
- On-the-job training in industry-specific safety regulations and inspection procedures
- Professional associations, Board of Certified Safety Professionals and the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, offer certifications
- Coursework in engineering, biology, and chemistry is a plus
- Some employers require a master's degree in industrial hygiene or health physics

SALARY RANGE^{1,3}

- \$77,370–\$103,169

WHO ARE THEY?¹

General supervisors for health and safety services are creative, observant, problem-solving professionals with outstanding communication skills. They are passionate about maintaining the health and safety of their fellow workers. Their goal is to protect employees from workplace-related injuries and illnesses. They are able to interpret complex government workplace health and safety regulations and communicate requirements to their co-workers. They can observe and identify health and safety risks, develop creative solutions to current and potential health and safety issues that emerge in the workplace, and implement solutions. General supervisors for health and safety often spend a lot of time out in the facilities interacting with others and frequently travel from site to site to oversee inspections and data collection.

WHAT DO THEY DO?^{1,2}

General supervisors for health and safety services oversee health and safety-related data collection and analysis at mines and other work environments. They supervise testing, inspections, and formal evaluations of workplace environments, procedures, and practices, and draft written reports of their findings. They design procedures to ensure workers are protected from potential hazards and design training programs for workers on how to follow these procedures to be safe in the workplace. General supervisors for health and safety services supervise investigations of events that led to workplace injuries and formulate solutions for preventing repeated incidents. They assess factors that can contribute to safety and health issues, including lighting, equipment failures and ventilation systems. Finally, general supervisors for health and safety services oversee first aid services at workplaces. They ensure coworkers are familiar with first aid procedures, designate employees who will administer first aid, and ensure first aid equipment and services are compatible with the specific needs of the workplace.

JOB OUTLOOK¹

Over the next 10 years, overall employment of safety and health experts is projected to grow at least at an average rate for all occupations. As rising workplace insurance costs become an increased concern, occupational safety and health experts will be needed to help mining operations and other employers to minimize risks. In addition, the aging of the U.S. population may contribute to future increases in workers' compensation claims. Applicants with science backgrounds and demonstrated knowledge of multiple areas of worker safety will have the most favorable hiring outlook.

HOW DO I BECOME ONE?¹

Occupational health and safety experts need a bachelor's degree in occupational health and safety or a related field of science, such as engineering, biology, or chemistry. They normally enter this field either through on-the-job training or by receiving postsecondary education, often a master's degree, in topics such as industrial hygiene or health physics. Many employers encourage certification from an organization such as the Board of Certified Safety Professionals or the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. On-the-job training typically focuses on industry-specific safety laws and regulations and inspection procedures.

General Supervisors for Health and Safety also must develop or possess technology skills for working with testing equipment; communication skills for writing reports and training employees; problem-solving skills for formulating solutions to health and safety issues; and stamina for traveling, standing for long periods, and working in confined spaces such as mining facilities.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING^{1,2}

- Bachelor's degree in occupational health and safety
- On-the-job training in industry-specific safety regulations and inspection procedures
- Professional associations, Board of Certified Safety Professionals and the American Board of Industrial Hygiene, offer certifications
- Coursework in engineering, biology, and chemistry is a plus
- Some employers require a master's degree in industrial hygiene or health physics

1 "Occupational Health and Safety Specialists and Technicians." Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/health-and-safety-engineers.htm#tab-1>

2 "Supervisor & Executive Safety Roles and Responsibilities." British Columbia Government Careers Page.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/managers-supervisors/occupational-health-safety/roles-responsibilities>

3 "Health and Safety Engineers." Occupational Outlook Handbook, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/architecture-and-engineering/health-and-safety-engineers.htm#tab-5>