

A Safe and Healthy Workplace is Good for Business

Request a Free Evaluation

Health Hazard Evaluation Program

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



What is NIOSH?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The NIOSH mission is to develop new knowledge about occupational safety and health and see that it is used to protect workers.

- NIOSH does research
- NIOSH makes recommendations
- NIOSH shares information

Right: An investigator with the Health Hazard Evaluation Program is taking noise measurements at an aluminum can manufacturing facility.



What is the NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program?

The Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Program provides a free service. When asked, the HHE Program evaluates health hazards in workplaces throughout the United States. If you are an employer and want help assessing and controlling possible work-related health hazards in your workplace, you can ask for an HHE. The HHE Program does not issue fines or citations.

The HHE Program has expertise in many areas, including health hazard identification, exposure assessment, symptom surveys, medical testing, and engineering controls. Health hazards the HHE Program can assess include the following:

- Physical agents such as heat and noise
- Biological agents such as mold
- Infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and influenza
- Chemicals such as solvents, metals, and particulates
- Work stressors such as excessive workload demands

Left: An HHE investigator wiping the bottom of a firearms instructor's boot to test for lead contamination.



Why Should You Request an HHE?

A free HHE offers employers several benefits. You will learn whether exposures or conditions in the workplace may harm employees. You will learn how to reduce or eliminate hazards in your workplace and ways to prevent work-related illnesses and injuries. Employers who improve workplace health and safety programs may see an increase in employee productivity and a decrease in workers' compensation costs and medical expenses. Being proactive about the health of your employees is the right thing to do.

Who Can Request an HHE?

Employers can request an HHE. A business owner or the head of an agency or organization can request an HHE. Health and safety managers, human resource managers, and other managers can also request an HHE on behalf of their employer. You can request an HHE whether you are in the private or public sector. Employees and unions can also request an HHE.

If you have questions about requesting an HHE or if you would like to discuss issues at your facility, contact the HHE Program at **1-513-841-4382** or by email at HHERequestHelp@cdc.gov.

How Does the HHE Process Work?

After you ask for an HHE, a NIOSH health and safety expert will contact you. From the information you provide, they will decide if an on-site evaluation is needed.

For common types of hazards, an on-site evaluation is not always needed. If an on-site visit is not needed, health and safety experts will get information by phone from you and your employees; and review reports about exposures, illness, and injury. They will suggest ways to reduce employees' exposures and prevent work-related health problems. They may also suggest other resources or places you can go for help.

If the HHE Program decides an on-site evaluation is needed, health and safety experts will come to your workplace at a time agreed upon by all involved. The process may require more than one visit. The team will work with you to minimize disruption of workplace activities.

Throughout the process you and your employees will be kept informed about the activities. When exposure measurements or medical tests are done on employees, the results will be sent to each employee. As an employer, you will get a summary of the results and guidance for improving health and safety in your workplace.

The HHE Program May:

- Observe work processes and practices
- Meet with you and other managers
- Talk with employees
- Review reports of exposure, injury, and illness
- Measure exposures
- Survey employees about their health
- Carry out medical testing

The Report

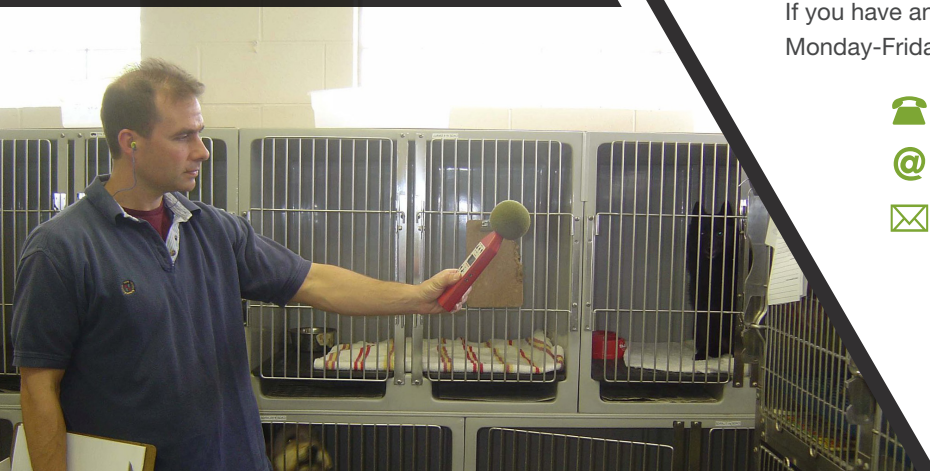
After the evaluation is done, the HHE Program will send you and an employee representative a report. The report will tell you what the HHE Program did and what they found. It also will suggest ways to make your workplace healthier and safer.

The HHE Program shares the reports with other federal agencies and the reports become part of the public record. The HHE Program posts all reports on its website where they are available to everyone for free. This allows other facilities to learn from the findings. The reports do not include your name or the name of your business, agency, or organization.

The Follow Up

After the report is released the HHE Program will invite you to ask questions and share your thoughts about the process. Later, the HHE Program will send you surveys by mail to share your opinions about your experience and to give you a chance to describe actions taken since the evaluation. To help improve the HHE Program, you may be asked about scheduling a follow-up visit. This will help the HHE Program learn how useful its recommendations were helpful in improving health and safety in your workplace.

How Do You Request an HHE?



To request an HHE, find the request form at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/request.html>.

You can fill it out online. Or, you can print the form and send it by mail or fax.

If you have any questions, please contact the HHE Program Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time:

☎ 1-513-841-4382

@ HHERequestHelp@cdc.gov

✉ NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Program
4676 Columbia Parkway, Mail Stop R-9
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1988

Left: An HHE investigator uses a sound level meter to measure noise levels at a veterinary clinic.

Delivering on the Nation's promise:
Safety and health at work for all
people through research
and prevention

To receive documents or other information about occupational safety and health topics, contact:

☎ 1-800-CDC-INFO
(1-800-232-4636)

TTY 1-888-232-6348

@ cdcinfo@cdc.gov or visit the NIOSH website <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>.

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