

IN SAN FRANCISCO, YOU ARE PROTECTED

Environmental Health works to prevent illness and injury in two ways: 1) Enforcing state and local regulations, and 2) Collaborating with others to improve conditions that cause health impacts or contribute to health inequities.

San Francisco has some of the most innovative programs in the state:

- Assist our ever-evolving food industry to achieve safe food preparation standards, including cottage food, mobile food, “pop-ups”, and temporary booths at special events.
- Co-lead the Vision Zero SF Task Force, which develops road safety policies to eliminate traffic-related serious injuries and deaths by 2024.
- Provide case manager support to create home action plans with residents whose hoarding or cluttering behaviors cause environmental health hazards.
- Inspect homes for families in the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Program to correct pest, mold, lead and other hazards, as well as provide referrals to help families reduce economic and other stressors.
- Require massage establishments to post human trafficking awareness information and suspend licenses for those operating illegally.
- Require installation of enhanced ventilation systems that filter harmful particulates in newly constructed homes located in poor air quality zones.
- Grant permits for water-conserving “onsite alternate water sources” such as rainwater harvesting for irrigation and black water treatment for toilet flushing.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH PROGRAMS

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3830 | FAX: (415) 252-3869

ARTICLE 38 PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3911 | FAX: (415) 252-3894

ASBESTOS PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3951 | FAX: (415) 252-3959

CANNABIS PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3827 | FAX: (415) 252-3959

CELL ANTENNAS PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3800 | FAX: (415) 252-3894

CHILDHOOD LEAD PREVENTION PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3956 | FAX: (415) 252-3889

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3898 | FAX: (415) 252-3889

CONTAMINATED SITE ASSESSMENT & MITIGATION PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3920 | FAX: (415) 252-3910

FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3804 | FAX: (415) 252-3842

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3900 | FAX: (415) 252-3910

HEALTHY HOUSING & VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3805 | FAX: (415) 252-3930

HOTEL & SHELTER PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3857 | FAX: (415) 252-3930

HUNTERS POINT SHIPYARD PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3967 | FAX: (415) 252-3889

LOCAL OVERSIGHT PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3920 | FAX: (415) 252-3910

MESSAGE & BODY ARTS PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3880 | FAX: (415) 252-3894

MUNICIPAL HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3962 | FAX: (415) 252-3910

NOISE PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3911 | FAX: (415) 252-3959

PESTICIDE USE PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3862 | FAX: (415) 252-3818

POINT OF SALE PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3884 | FAX: (415) 252-3959

PROGRAM ON HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY

PHONE: (415) 252-3972 | FAX: (415) 252-3959

RETAIL TOBACCO & SMOKING PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3903 | FAX: (415) 252-3894

SOLID WASTE PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3872 | FAX: (415) 252-3875

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3973 | FAX: (415) 252-3894

WEIGHTS & MEASURES PROGRAM

PHONE: (415) 252-3884 | FAX: (415) 252-3869

TO REQUEST SERVICE:

Call 311 or use 311 website
<https://sf311.org/web/guest/home>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Call 415-252-3800 or visit
<https://www.sfdph.org/dph/EH/default.asp>

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SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH



POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Making San Francisco the Healthiest Place on Earth



WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH?

Environmental Health is concerned with all aspects of the natural and built environment that may affect human health. For example, our staff inspect restaurants to make sure that the food is safe to eat, regulate proper storage, business handling and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes, respond to concerns about unhealthy housing conditions such as pests, mold, lead and asbestos hazards, or excess noise from rooftop mechanical ventilation, and test natural swimming areas to ensure safe levels of bacteria. Agriculture staff certify Farmers Markets to ensure that San Franciscans of all income levels have access to farm fresh, California grown, organic and wholesome fruits, vegetables, eggs, nuts and honey.

All San Franciscans, no matter where we live, work or play, deserve the opportunity for good health. The Environmental Health Branch works with other public agencies, community groups and local businesses to make sure all of our communities are safe and healthy places to live.

FOOD SAFETY:

Inspectors ensure that day-to-day food preparation is done in a safe manner to prevent food-borne illness. They conduct surveillance of a wide range of food establishments including restaurants, markets, mobile food units, farmers markets, vending machines, and review food facility plans for construction. This program also offers accredited Food Safety Manager training in several languages.



WATER QUALITY:

Inspectors are responsible for the safe construction and operation of all public bathing and swimming areas, including pools and spas. We work with the Water Department to monitor coastal and freshwater bathing areas, post warnings and close beaches with polluted waters to prevent injury or illness.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH'S MISSION:

- IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTS
- PROTECTING HEALTH
- PROMOTING EQUITY



NOISE ENFORCEMENT:

Inspectors enforce local regulations regarding fixed equipment noise, such as ventilation equipment, generators and compressors.



HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY:

This program develops and applies innovative approaches to using health data and evidence to inform safe, sustainable and equitable transportation and land use planning and policy in collaboration with local communities and government agencies.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE:

Specific areas of regulation enforced include Underground Storage Tanks, Hazardous Material Business Plans, and Hazardous Wastes, and the California Accidental Release Prevention Program. The program also regulates businesses that generate medical waste, treat medical waste on site, transport medical waste to another facility for disposal, or provide a common storage area for the medical waste generated at several facilities. Environmental Health also staffs a Haz Mat Emergency Response Team that supports the Fire Department on hazardous material incident response.

HEALTHY HOUSING & VECTOR CONTROL:

Inspectors strive to prevent people from having to live in substandard housing through inspections to find and order correction of public health nuisances, which include sanitation, vector harborage, pest infestation and mold. Inspectors also assess neighborhoods for conditions that support mosquitos or rodents, and order abatement. The Children's Environmental Health Promotion Program inspects for lead hazards and orders remediation wherever children under six years old spend time.



SOLID WASTE:

Inspectors ensure that laws are followed with regard to the operation of landfills, transfer stations, compost facilities, recycling facilities, and other waste facilities, with the goal of protecting the environment from pollution. The Program also ensures that commercial and residential properties have sufficient garbage service.



WEIGHTS & MEASURES:

Weights & Measures officials assure that consumers can shop with confidence. These inspectors work behind the scenes to protect both consumers and businesses from malfunctioning devices and unfair marketing practices. Their work ensures fair and honest competition for industry and accurate value comparison for consumers.

