

CAREER PROFILE

HEALTH AND SAFETY COORDINATOR



Name: Craig Cowper
Employer: AREVA Resources Canada
Education: Industrial Hygiene Technology Diploma

DETAILS OF THE JOB: Ensuring safe production is the top priority of many mining companies. Craig's responsibilities include establishing site goals, recommending safe work practices and helping improve the site safety culture. As a Safety Officer Craig uses instruments such as gas detectors to monitor atmospheric conditions prior to issuing confined space entry permits.

A Health & Safety Coordinator needs to stay in touch with all departments. This is accomplished by verbal and face to face communication and field visits. "The collaboration and sharing of ideas with operations, maintenance and management personnel result in the development of successful safety programs," says Craig.

A TYPICAL DAY: Health & Safety Coordinators have a fair amount of office work. Some of the day to day tasks consist of drafting and reviewing procedural documents, creating injury statistical reports and performing incident investigations.

Field work tends to be more physical. Examples of this include performing inspections or evaluating potential hazards. There is a stronger physical component related to emergency response and related training activities.

SKILLS NEEDED:

- Effective written and verbal communications are essential
- Ability to develop strong working relationships with employees, to work together to identify solutions and clearly communicate expectations

COMMENT: There are numerous opportunities to develop new skills and gain valuable experience, which can lead to career advancement. Careers can evolve from traditional health and safety roles into areas specializing in training, enforcement, emergency response, industrial hygiene, etc. "Often, how the safety message is communicated is just as important as the actual subject," concludes Craig.

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET AN EDUCATION?: SK Construction Safety Association, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Great Plains College

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES: Health Science 20, Physical Science 20, Environmental Science 20, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Physics 30, Mathematics 30, English Language Arts 30

NOC: 2263

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