

## Shore Safety Gram



# SOH Specialist Responsibilities

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) defines federal agency safety and health specialists as those having a specific GS series and equally qualified military personnel. The most common GS series' for the Naval Enterprise are 0018, 0019 and 0803 for safety; 0081 for fire and 0690 for industrial hygiene. In addition to defining who is a safety and occupational health (SOH) specialist, OSHA defines SOH officials and inspectors.

**B L U F** Personnel qualified to recognize and evaluate hazards of the working environment and safety and health specialists with experience and/or current training in SOH hazard recognition and evaluation meet safety and health inspector qualification, per 29 CFR 1960.25(a). These inspectors and specialists must inspect all workplace areas and operations annually. Some workplaces are inspected more frequently to include unannounced and follow-up inspections.

When inspections are performed by qualified SOH specialists (Figure 1), they must follow minimum requirements found in 29 CFR 1960.26, including specific actions for all identified hazards. Inspector actions include those listed below:

### Pre-Inspection Requirements

- 1960.26(a)(1) Review info prior to inspection
- 1960.26(a)(1) Determine equipment needed
- 1960.26(b)(1) Inspection scope of workplace
- 1960.26(b)(1) Inspection scope of who assessed

### During Inspection Requirements

- 1960.26(b)(2) Consult with employees
- 1960.26(b)(3) Personal monitoring

### Requirements for all Hazards Identified

- 1960.26(b)(6) Confer with OIC
- 1960.26(c)(2) Timeline for issue of findings
- 1960.26(c)(2)(i) In writing
- 1960.26(c)(2)(i) Describe nature & degree of seriousness
- 1960.26(c)(2)(i) Include Reference
- 1960.26(c)(2)(ii) Provide time for abatement
- 1960.26(c)(2)(iii) Sent to OIC
- 1960.26(c)(4) Notice is posted

### Navy Specifics (B5 of OPNAV M-5100.23)

- Past safety, fire, IH inspections
- Base on area and operations
- Identify workplace and operations
- Command and chain of command
- Talk with employees during visit
- Conduct if needed to quantify hazard
- Informally advise of hazards
- Issue notice no later than 15 days
- Issue deficiency and enter into RMI
- Detail of hazards and overall risk 5 W's
- Use OSHA when possible
- Provide recommendation and time
- Send deficiency to OIC
- Direct command to post the deficiency

### SOH occupations identified by OSHA in 29 CFR 1960.2(s)

SOH Manager/Spec	GS-018
Safety Engineer	GS-803
Fire Prevention Eng	GS-804
Industrial Hygienist	GS-0690
Fire Prot Spec/Marshal	GS-081
Health Physicist	GS-1306
Occ. Medicine Physician	GS-602
Occ. Health Nurse	GS-610
Safety Technician	GS-019
Physical Science Tech	GS-1311
Enviro Health Tech	S-699
Air Safety Invest Officer	GS-1815
Chemist	GS-1320
Health Technician	GS-645
Highway Safety Manager	GS-2125
Or equally qualified military personnel	

Figure 1



Brian Jung conducts Respiratory Protection Program Management (RPPM) training at Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center, May 1, 2024. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Benjamin F. Davella)



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