

# Environmental Health Division

**The Minnesota Department of Health's Environmental Health Division works to protect you from environmental health hazards in your home, workplace, and community.**

## **Protecting drinking water supplies**

We inspect and monitor public drinking water systems for more than 100 contaminants. We ensure that public water supply operators, plumbers, water conditioning installers, and well contractors have the right training and skills. We educate and assist professionals, communities, and households across the state.

**Assuring safe food** We establish and enforce health standards to ensure clean and healthy conditions in over 20,000 hotels, motels, resorts, restaurants, manufactured home parks, recreational camping areas, school kitchens, and children's camps. We educate the public about food safety. We certify courses for food managers on sanitary conditions and safe food preparation.

**Evaluating health risks** We evaluate potential health risks from chemical and physical agents in the environment. We work with federal and state agencies to assess and prevent possible human health risks from accidental spills, waste disposal, and agricultural and industrial activities. We develop health education programs and materials for communities.

**Striving for cleaner indoor air** We strive for cleaner air inside our homes, restaurants, and workplaces. We are responsible for the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act that restricts smoking in public places and work places. We educate people about the potential health effects of mold, carbon monoxide, radon (a naturally occurring radioactive gas), and other indoor air contaminants.

**Protecting you from radiation** We help doctors, dentists and veterinarians protect themselves, their staff and their patients from radiation by inspecting x-ray equipment, mammogram facilities, and other radioactive materials they use. We monitor for radiation around the two nuclear power plants through a sampling program, and will provide technical advice in the event of a nuclear power plant emergency.

**Protecting you from asbestos and lead** We establish and enforce health and work standards for homes, schools, and businesses. We ensure that contractors and workers have the right training and skills. Our safety inspectors visit work sites in homes, schools and other buildings with asbestos or lead-based paint around the state.

**Advising on eating Minnesota sport fish** We evaluate health risks from eating sport fish with unsafe levels of chemical contamination. Each year we print and distribute over 30,000 copies of "Eat Fish Often?" which advises on cleaning and eating fish from more than 1000 Minnesota waters.

**Addressing emerging issues** We work with scientists from around the country and around the world to identify new environmental hazards to your family's health. We are actively working on:

- ✓ Readiness for acts of terrorism
- ✓ Environmental health threats to children
- ✓ Clandestine drug labs



Environmental Health Division  
P. O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975  
651/201-5000  
[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh)

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## **The Environmental Health Division has staff in the following offices:**

### **Main Office**

Minnesota Department of Health  
Environmental Health Division  
P.O. Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
(651) 201-5000

### **Central District Office**

3333 West Division Street, Suite 212  
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4557  
(320) 223-7300

### **Northeastern District Office**

Government Service Center  
320 West Second Street, Room 703  
Duluth, MN 55802-1402  
(218) 723-4642

### **Northwestern District Office**

705 Fifth Street Northwest, Suite A  
Bemidji, MN 56601-2933  
(218) 308-2100

### **South Central District Office**

Nichols Office Center  
410 Jackson Street, Suite 500  
Mankato, MN 56001-3762  
(507) 389-2501

### **Southeastern District Office**

18 Wood Lake Drive Southeast  
Rochester, MN 55904-5506  
(507) 285-7289

### **Southwestern District Office**

1400 East Lyon Street  
Marshall, MN 56258-2529  
(507) 537-7151

### **West Central District Office**

1505 Pebble Lake Road, Suite 300  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537-3858  
(218) 332-5150

**Protecting People from  
Environmental Hazards  
Since 1872**

Programs administered by the  
Minnesota Department of Health's  
Environmental Health Division  
protect Minnesotans from disease  
and injury.

*Please visit our website:*  
[www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh)

**To request this document in  
another format, call 651-201-5000.**

**Deaf and hard of hearing TTY:  
(651) 201-5797**