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Co-op at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January–August 2009

I am a chemistry undergraduate with a strong interest in environmental sciences and public health, and I wondered if being in a lab all the time really was for me. Following are brief descriptions of projects I worked on while at the National Center for Environmental Health's Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB).



Water Alerts and Well Disinfection

- Water alerts (boil-water notices in retail and private; interruption of service in healthcare sector)
- Well disinfection (chlorine dosage calculators and charts and emergency well disinfection after a disaster)

Environmental Public Health Training in Emergency Response – Introductory Level

- Editing and proofing, preparation of slides for printing
- Initial planning of upper-level courses

Hurricane Season 2009

- Observer for exercise Atlantic Wrath (a chance to see the CDC Emergency Operations Center in action and to see environmental health's role in natural disasters)
- Employee on-call volunteer calendar
- Emergency contact info

Drought Document

- *When Every Drop Counts: Protecting Public Health During Drought Conditions*
- Document editing, proofing, and rewriting
- Supporting research and fact-checking

Sheltering and Reoccupancy Exercise

- Tabletop exercise conducted by interns for other interns
- Post-emergency scenario (hurricane, flood, etc.)
- Exercises on assessing blueprints of gymnasium for shelter, determining public health issues, examination of pictures from real emergency shelters, and community reoccupancy



Public health professional shadowing

- Gwinnett County (4 days) and Dekalb County (2 days)
 - Restaurant inspections
 - Tourism and body art
 - Pools/spas
 - Hotels
 - Piercing/tattoo studios
 - Land use
 - Septic system complaints/permits

- Georgia Division of Public Health
 - Atlantic Station tour (green buildings and LEED certification)
 - Waste Management landfill tour
 - Restaurant research shadowing (restaurant cooling procedures)

- National Park Service
 - Ocmulgee
 - Kennesaw Mountain

- United States Department of Agriculture
 - Poultry processing plant
 - Red-meat processing plant



Future Plans

I will be back in January 2010 to work on the standard operating protocol for new gel electrophoresis equipment in the NCEH Organic Analytical Chemistry lab.