What is a Typical Day for a District Inspector?

Report to work and prepare for an inspection.
- Review prior facility inspection reports and current permits and conditions.
- As questions arise, check with colleagues to understand the compliance issues.
- Assemble inspection forms, equipment and materials.

Conduct the inspection of the facility.

Complete a written report and provide it to supervisor for review and appropriate updates to the compliance database.

Prepare for next inspection, and/or prepare to respond to a complaint call.

Protecting Our Air

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) is a local government agency that works to protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from harmful effects of air pollution.

We are an independent special district, responsible for controlling air pollution from business and industry sources (we do not regulate motor vehicles). Our jurisdiction covers the entire County including the incorporated cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang.

Visit www.OurAir.org

- View Today’s Air Quality
- Find out about funding programs
- Subscribe to our newsletter, and to Air Quality Advisories
- Access permitting and compliance info
- Find out what you can do for cleaner air.

Phone Numbers

Main Number ........................................ 961-8800
(general information and complaints)
Public Information & Media ............... 961-8833
Business Assistance .................. 961-8868
Recorded Information ............... 961-8802
Clerk of the Board .................. 961-8853

“I like this job. You get out and walk around in a beautiful environment, and you get to work with great people at the businesses and at the District. I really enjoy it.”

-Jon Mundt, District Inspector

About Inspectors

Air Quality Inspection Specialist

260 N San Antonio Rd, Suite A
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1315
(805) 961-8800
www.OurAir.org
Who do we regulate?

We regulate “stationary sources” or business sources of air pollution. Inspectors inspect a range of facilities, activities and equipment in Santa Barbara County, including:

- Dry cleaners
- Gas stations
- Autobody shops
- Facilities that use solvents
- Sand, rock and gravel processing facilities
- Concrete and asphalt batch plants
- Diatomaceous minerals mining and processing
- Agricultural engines
- State registered portable engines
- Gas plants
- Asphalt refineries
- Asbestos demolition and renovation
- Onshore oil and gas processing and storage facilities
- Landfills
- Cogeneration facilities
- Sixteen oil and gas platforms located offshore.

What Do Inspectors Do?

Inspect facilities and investigate complaints to determine compliance with District, state, and federal air pollution rules.

Issue notices to ensure compliance with rules, including Notices of Violation, Notices to Comply and Minor Infraction Notices.

Learn and apply complex inspection and investigative methods for petroleum and industrial facilities that have to comply with multiple regulations.

Develop recommendations on how new or proposed rules can best be implemented, and made effective and enforceable.

Prepare reports on findings of inspections and complaint investigations.

Help prepare Hearing Board cases or recommend variance conditions to ensure compliance with District rules.

Provide testimony before the Hearing Board, or in court or administrative hearings, on civil and criminal air pollution cases when requested.

Represent the District at meetings and conferences and respond to inquiries about District rules and processes.

Analyze and determine the cause and nature of air contaminant emissions and coordinate the physical testing of sources.

Re-inspect sources found in non-compliance.

To be an Inspector, you need to be able to...

Learn, interpret and apply District, state and federal regulations to equipment, processes, and materials, and determine compliance with air quality standards.

Communicate clearly and concisely verbally and in writing; understand and follow verbal and written instructions; maintain and establish effective working relationships with public and private agency representatives, members of the public and District personnel; operate and maintain a variety of equipment, detectors, and sampling devices.

Deal with conflict effectively while conducting a facility inspection, responding to a complaint, or performing any other District duty.

Climb stairs and ladders while inspecting onshore and offshore oil and gas facilities; wear a self-contained breathing apparatus, and carry a toxic vapor analyzer or similar equipment during an inspection; and obtain respirator certification, and confined space and/or hydrogen sulfide certification.

Read visible emissions and obtain certification from the California Air Resources Board.

Travel by car for up to 90 miles one way to conduct an inspection.

Travel by helicopter or crew boat when inspecting offshore oil and gas platforms and support equipment.