

Do you know the difference between Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and Hazardous Waste (HAZWASTE)? The Environmental Management Office (EMO) vs. Bio-Environmental? HAZWASTE training vs. Hazard Communication (HazComm) training? Most people have been trained and understand their responsibilities but with the UEI capstone coming up here is a review of some terminology in case you are interviewed by an inspector.

EMO is responsible for issues that affect the environment: hazardous waste, solid waste, waste water, air pollution, natural resources, spill prevention, and more. If it affects land, water, or air, the EMO is the POC. 1st Lt Matt Shaw is the Environmental Manager for the 115FW and works out of the Civil Engineer Squadron (Bldg. 1210).

The Occupational Health/ Bio-Environmental Office are responsible for issues that affect human health. The Bio-Environmental office conducts Industrial Hygiene assessments, ventilation surveys, and air sampling. In addition, Public Health is responsible for hearing tests, pregnancy profiles, and occupational health exams. They operate out of the Medical Squadron (Bldg. 500).

Lt.Shaw is also the Environmental Management System (EMS) Coordinator. The EMS is a wing-level program that commits to continual improvement and pollution prevention. Everyone has a part in EMS. The Virtual Environmental Management Office (VEMO) (<https://eissp.ang.af.mil/func/VEMO/truaxfield/Pages/default.aspx>). Familiarize yourself with this site and the content such as training documents and guidance. Everyone is required to complete EMS awareness training. If you require a refresher the training is on VEMO. In addition review the base [EMS Commitment Statement](#) which states the 115 FW commitments to environmental protection. EMS auditors WILL interview base personnel to assess familiarization with EMS. Typically you will be asked about your familiarity with the base "EMS" the "Emergency Management System".

HAZMAT vs. HAZWASTE: The hazards of these are similar, but the regulations are different. A simple definition for HAZWASTE is a HAZMAT item or byproduct of the HAZMAT that no longer useful. HAZWASTE regulations include storage time limits, labeling requirements, special training, and licensed disposal facilities. HAZMAT regulations are designed to protect human health. They include "HazComm" training, Safety Data Sheets, and storage requirements. HAZWASTE training is required for those that manage hazardous waste.

So remember the Bio-Environmental Office (human health) and Environmental Management Office (health of the environment) are separate functions. Make sure you are up to date on all required training, are familiar with the base EMS, and your role in it. Finally, if an inspector asks you an environmental question you do not know the answer to it is perfectly acceptable to say you do not know and you want to call the EMO (245-4739). Thank you and have a great weekend.