

# Earth Day 2012



## Career Profile

**Name:** Rex A. Miller  
**Job Title:** Environmental Emergency Response Manager  
**Location:** Southeast Regional Office  
**Years with DEP:** 24

### **What kinds of activities do you perform on a daily basis?**

I receive environmental incident notifications from various federal, state, county, municipal entities, regulated facilities and citizens. I also coordinate the appropriate response to incidents utilizing DEP and any additional resources necessary to ensure protection of public health, safety and the environment.

### **What kind of educational background do you have?**

I have a bachelor's degree in environmental resource management from Penn State.

### **What is the most challenging part of your job?**

The most challenging part is the operation and maintenance of a 24/7/365 system for the rapid acquisition of pertinent factual incident data, evaluation of unmet needs, communication of needs to resources and dispatching resources to incident for assessment, mitigation, documentation and assignment for long term remediation. All of that must be managed while trying to maintain efficient and effective procedures and dealing with some reluctant and unwilling entities.

### **What got you interested in working in an environmental field?**

As an outdoorsman and Boy Scout from a very young age, I enjoy hunting, trapping, fishing and camping. Observing the degradation of pristine mountain ecosystems as result of coal mining in southwestern PA has also inspired me to work in this field.

### **What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

It is rewarding to abate a potential major pollution event by effectively coordinating an emergency response to a large scale release and mitigating the impact to the public health, safety and the environment.

### **What advice do you have for someone thinking about a career in environmental science?**

Be well rounded, gain an understanding of all environmental disciplines and the ramifications each has on the others. I prefer to focus on preventing unnecessary environmental degradation, as opposed to remediation after the fact. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.