



VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN I/II

DEFINITION

Under immediate and general supervision, implements plans, controls, and eliminates harmful insect infestations throughout the County; assists in the identification of vector-borne diseases and the implementation of practices for their control; assists in the calibration and maintenance of equipment and upkeep of vector facilities; and performs related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives immediate and general supervision from the Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor. Exercises no direct supervision over staff.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

Vector Control Technician I: This is the entry-level classification in the Vector Control Technician series. Initially under close supervision, incumbents learn and perform a variety of routine vector control and maintenance and inspection duties to eliminate of harmful insects. As experience is gained, assignments become more varied, complex, and difficult; close supervision and frequent review of work lessen as an incumbent demonstrates skill to perform the work independently. Positions at this level usually perform most of the duties required of the positions at the II-level, but are not expected to function at the same skill level and usually exercise less independent discretion and judgment in matters related to work procedures and methods. Work is usually supervised while in progress and fits an established structure or pattern. Exceptions or changes in procedures are explained in detail as they arise.

Vector Control Technician II: This is the fully qualified journey-level classification in the Vector Control Technician series. Incumbents are fully competent to independently perform full range maintenance and inspection duties to eliminate of harmful insects. Positions at this level are distinguished from the I-level by the performance of the full range of duties as assigned, working independently, and exercising judgment and initiative. Positions at this level receive only occasional instruction or assistance as new or unusual situations arise and are fully aware of the operating procedures and policies of the work unit.

Positions in the Vector Control Technician class series are flexibly staffed and positions at the II-level are normally filled by advancement from the I-level after gaining the certification, experience and demonstrating proficiency which meet the qualifications for the higher level class.

This class is distinguished from the Sr. Vector Control Technician in that the latter provides technical and functional direction to lower-level staff and is responsible for the more complex work.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

- Identifies and inspects areas prone to mosquito infestations; collects samples and analyzes mosquito types.
- Performs physical control at infestation sites by digging drainage ditches, removing beaver dams, or other obstacles to drainage.
- Calibrates and maintains spray equipment, mixes chemicals, and operates manual and power spray equipment to apply pesticides.

- Collects samples from dead birds and mammals for vector-borne diseases.
- Responds to calls from the public regarding yellow jacket nests and infestations; collects samples and recommends methods of treatment, and uses appropriate safety equipment, including a bee suit; treats the nesting area using liquid spray or dusting pesticide.
- Responds to calls from the public regarding dead rodents and investigates for the presence of plague.
- Sets live traps for rodents, anesthetizes animals, and collects fleas by brushing the animal; takes blood samples and releases animal; sends samples to Sacramento to test for the presence of plague; implements flea control program by setting bait stations, and spraying and dusting den areas.
- Distributes educational material regarding plague to residents, at campgrounds, and other public areas; explains the symptoms of plague and how it is spread; and explains control programs.
- Participates in vector control programs for other problem insects, parasites, and vertebrates as required.
- Identifies and inspects areas prone to mosquito infestations and Lyme disease; collects, packs and sends appropriate samples for testing when necessary; posts notices and makes literature available as needed.
- Maintains records of applied pesticides and treated vector infestations.
- Operates a variety of vehicles and power equipment such as four-wheel drive vehicles, 3- and 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles and a variety of vehicle trailers and hand-held power equipment.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Some knowledge and abilities may be gained by employees at the entry (I) level while in a learning capacity.

Knowledge of:

- Common insect, rodent, and similar vectors, and their habitats, foods, and life cycles.
- Principles and practices of vector control, including biological methods, the use of pesticides, and the operation of tools and equipment.
- Applicable federal, state, and local air quality laws, rules, and regulations relevant to the use of pesticides.
- Safety procedures and methods related to the work.
- Methods, techniques, parts, tools, and materials used in the maintenance and repair of vehicles and equipment.
- Basic principles of biology, entomology, and related life science subjects.
- Basic recordkeeping principles and practices.
- Principles and techniques for working with groups and fostering effective team interaction to ensure teamwork is conducted smoothly.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, vendors, contractors, and County staff.
- The structure and content of the English language, including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Modern equipment and communication tools used for business functions and program, project, and task coordination.
- Computers and software programs (e.g., Microsoft software packages) to conduct, compile, and/or generate documentation.

Ability to:

- Identify a wide variety of insects, rodents, and other vectors prone to infestation.
- Apply the techniques and principles of vector control agents and materials.
- Perform surveillance, inspections, and investigate complaints.
- Perform physical control at infestation sites by digging drainage ditches and removing obstacles.
- Calibrate spray equipment, mix chemicals, and operate manual and power spray equipment.

- Operate and maintain a variety of pesticide application equipment, power equipment, and vehicles.
- Maintain accurate records and files.
- Understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Educate and instruct the public in proper vector infestation prevention techniques.
- Preparing clear, concise, and complete reports and other written material.
- Understand, interpret, and apply all pertinent laws, codes, regulations, policies and procedures, and standards relevant to work performed.
- Effectively represent the division and the County in meetings with governmental agencies; community groups; various business, professional, and regulatory organizations; and in meetings with individuals.
- Independently organize work, set priorities, meet critical deadlines, and follow-up on assignments.
- Effectively use computer systems, software applications, and modern business equipment to perform a variety of work tasks.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing, using appropriate English grammar and syntax.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education and Experience:

Any combination of the required experience, education, and training that would provide the essential knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying.

Vector Control Technician I: Equivalent to graduation from high school, and one (1) year of experience in grounds keeping or gardening, which included the safe application of pesticides.

Vector Control Technician II: Equivalent to graduation from high school, and one (1) year of experience in vector control at a level equivalent to the County's class of Vector Control Technician I.

Licenses and Certifications:

Vector Control Technician I and II

- Possession of, or ability to obtain, a valid California Driver's License by time of appointment and a satisfactory driving record.
- Within one year of employment, must obtain State of California, Department of Public Health certification A- Mosquito Control Technician through the California Department of Health Services.

Vector Control Technician II

- Possession of State of California, Department of Public Health, certifications in B-Mosquito Control, C-Terrestrial Invertebrate Vector Control, and D-Vertebrate Vector Control at the II-level is desirable.
- Ability to obtain continuing education units every two (2) years (according to the training cycle) as governed by the California Vector Control Technical Certification and Training Program Guidelines.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in the field; strength, stamina, and mobility to perform medium to heavy physical work, to work in confined spaces and around machines, to climb and descend ladders, to operate varied hand and power tools and equipment, and to operate a motor vehicle and visit various County sites; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person

and over the telephone or radio. The job involves fieldwork requiring frequent walking in operational areas to identify problems or hazards. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate above-mentioned tools and equipment. Positions in this classification bend, stoop, kneel, reach, and climb to perform work and inspect work sites. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects weighing up to 50 pounds, or heavier weights with the use of proper equipment and assistance from other staff. Reasonable accommodations will be made for individuals on a case-by-case basis.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Employees work in the field and are exposed to loud noise levels, cold and hot temperatures, inclement weather conditions, road hazards, vibration, confining workspaces, chemicals, mechanical and/or electrical hazards, and hazardous physical substances and fumes. Employees may interact with members of the public or with staff under emotionally stressful conditions while interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.