



SR. VECTOR CONTROL TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Under general direction, performs the most complex and difficult vector control duties, including field inspections and control operations; provides lead direction and training to a crew of Vector Control Technicians; assists in the calibration and maintenance of equipment and upkeep of vector facilities; and performs related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general direction from the Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor. Provides technical and functional direction and training to technical and administrative support staff.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This is the advanced-level classification in the Vector Control Technician series. Incumbents work under general direction, and exercise a high level of discretion and independent judgment in performing the full range of duties assigned including the most complex and specialized vector control work and maintenance duties.

EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

- Performs the most complex and specialized vector control inspection and maintenance duties.
- Provides functional and technical direction to technical and administrative support staff.
- Participates in the selection of personnel; conducts orientation and in-service training programs.
- Plans, schedules, and participates in vector control operations, as well as the maintenance and repair of vehicles, equipment, and facilities.
- Consults with professional and technical staff to resolve field problems.
- Maintains operating and administrative records and oversees the keeping of records by technicians; prepares periodic and special reports of activities and investigations.
- Procures and maintains an inventory of supplies, tools, and equipment necessary for the operation of the department.
- Coordinates the work of the department with affected landowners, including state and federal agencies; meets with members of the public to explain control programs and to resolve the more difficult public contacts.
- Performs physical control at infestation sites by digging drainage ditches or by removing beaver dams or other obstacles to drainage.
- 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.
- 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.
- Monitors technological advancements in the field of vector control, pesticide usage, and related biological matters; recommends County policy and procedural changes.
- 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.

- Participates in vector control programs for other problem insects, parasites, and vertebrates as required.
- 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.
- Operates a variety of vehicles and power equipment such as four-wheel drive vehicles, 3- and 4-wheel all-terrain vehicles, front-end loaders, backhoes, and a variety of vehicle trailers and hand-held power equipment.
- Assists with environmental management outreach programs such as vector control, bear resistant container compliance, recycling, etc.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles of providing functional direction and training.
- Common insect, rodent, and similar vectors, and their habitats, foods, and life cycles.
- Principles and practices of vector control, including biological methods and the use of pesticides.
- Applicable federal, state, and local air quality laws, rules, and regulations relevant to the use of pesticides.
- Safe and proper use of vector control equipment, including traps and spray equipment.
- Principles of biology, entomology, and related life science subjects.
- Methods, techniques, parts, tools, and materials used in the maintenance and repair of vehicles and spray equipment.
- Recordkeeping principles and practices.
- Operation and maintenance of a wide variety of hand, power, and shop tools.
- 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:

- Plan, organize, assign, direct, and review the work of staff.
- Train staff in work procedures and in the proper use of safety equipment.
- Provide staff leadership and work direction.
- 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.
- Instruct the public in proper vector infestation prevention techniques.
- Perform preventive maintenance and repair on a variety of vehicles and power equipment.
- 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.
- Prepare 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 department 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.

Equivalent to graduation from high school, and two (2) years of experience in vector control at a level equivalent to the County's class of Vector Control Technician II.

Licenses and Certifications:

- Possession of, or ability to obtain, a valid California Driver's License by time of appointment and a satisfactory driving record.
- Possession of State of California, Department of Public Health, certifications in A-Mosquito Control Technician, B-Mosquito Control, C-Terrestrial Invertebrate Vector Control, and D-Vertebrate Vector Control.
- 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 construction 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.