
Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE: Job Description - Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV
POLICY NUMBER: 6143

6143.1 Nature of Work

6143.1.1 During the warmer months of the year, under the general direction of the District Manager and Assistant Manager and direct supervision of the Regional Supervisor, the Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV performs vector surveillance, performs vector control operations, and provides public education within the District's service area, is assigned a geographic zone and/or specialized functions of a vector control agency, and performs work as required.

6143.1.2 During the cooler months of the year, under the general direction of the District Manager and Assistant Manager and direct supervision of the Regional Supervisor, the Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV performs annual maintenance of spray equipment/machines, ATVs, vehicles, and facilities; performs personnel and equipment characterization and calibration; performs and assists with special projects; receives annual training and attend continuing education courses.

6143.2 Illustrative Tasks

6143.2.1 Surveys District service area and assigned zone for vector breeding sources, such as but not limited to, ponds, catch basins, marsh areas, dairy facilities, residential premises, swimming pools, managed wetlands, floodwater, ditches, pastures, agriculture sources, and maintains an awareness of irrigation patterns and other water holding sources conducive to vector breeding and determines or identifies species and/or stage of larval development and notes other factors such as weather conditions, type and extent of plant growth, water quality, and surroundings.

6143.2.2 Supervises assigned Mosquito and Vector Control Assistant in organizing the work of field inspections and control operations to meet the various needs and situations; requests personnel assistance to sections or areas and makes adjustments in assignments as necessary.

6143.2.3 Performs the application of pesticides and insures such applications and pesticides are applied in accordance with established laws, regulations, methods and techniques; selects appropriate pesticide for application; selects appropriate dosage rates in accordance with the label, and implements to obtain proper coverage and efficacy; FOLLOWS THE LABEL; records and submits accurate and proper paperwork (worksheets, weigh tags, fog sheets, service requests, weekly surveillance records, etc.).

6143.2.4 Arranges for and conducts fish planting in targeted areas; assists with the District's mosquitofish program; harvests fish, maintains facility and sentinel fish tanks, maintains District ponds, and provide recommend field harvest locations.

- 6143.2.5** As needed, initiates requests for aircraft applications and provides information, such as Genus/species, larval stage development, dip count, field location, acres needing treatment, and all other pertinent information.
- 6143.2.6** Re-inspects treated areas to evaluate efficacy, and keeps records of all work performed.
- 6143.2.7** Works with property owners and others and advises regarding vector problems and the need for vector control and source reduction; explains the reason(s) for the Specialist's presence on the property; advises property owners regarding improper maintenance of continuing sources of vectors.
- 6143.2.8** Assists with investigation work, water management, and construction projects as needed.
- 6143.2.9** Works with property owners and other agencies to make recommendations in prevention, reduction, or elimination of mosquito development and harborage sites. Promotes Best Management Practices to reduce mosquitoes and mosquito-breeding sites.
- 6143.2.10** Performs vector surveillance to ponds, catch basins, marsh areas, dairy facilities, residential premises, swimming pools, cemeteries, nurseries, managed wetlands, floodwater, ditches, pastures, agriculture sources, and maintains an awareness of irrigation patterns and other sources conducive to vector breeding.
- 6143.2.11** Reports conditions needing attention and action to management (i.e. denied access to property, interference of District staff to provide service, refusal of application, public complaint, etc.).
- 6143.2.12** Revises operational maps of zones and areas in the District including properties, sources, topographical characteristics, fogging routes, no sprays, bees, and other features relevant to vector surveillance and control operations; makes improvement suggestions to the GIS department.
- 6143.2.13** Performs, supervises, and assists in the task training of new personnel in field operations.
- 6143.2.14** Cuts vegetation and prepares trails for equipment and/or personnel movement; performs general labor and simple equipment operations.
- 6143.2.15** Performs annual maintenance of spray equipment, ATVs, vehicles, and facilities; calibrates spray equipment; assists with facility improvement/maintenance projects including, but not limited to, herbiciding, weed removal, fish pond and tank maintenance, janitorial, painting, and other related general labor activities; completes all required annual training, annual reading, and attends continuing education and training sessions.
- 6143.2.16** Ability to take management direction, communicate well with fellow employees, management, and the public.
- 6143.2.17** Make and maintain contacts with other agencies.
- 6143.2.18** Respond to questions and complaints regarding the District's program.
- 6143.2.19** Performs related work as required and other assigned tasks.

6143.3 Secondary Illustrative Tasks

6143.3.1 Due to work volume, financial and staffing constraints, and other unknown and/or unanticipated conditions, at times, this position may be assigned other tasks, including field surveillance and control operations; clerical and/or office operations; mechanical and maintenance operations; public education and outreach operations; and other operations as needed, requested, and/or required.

6143.4 Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills

6143.4.1 Working knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District.

6143.4.2 Knowledge of the pesticides, methods, and techniques used in vector control activities.

6143.4.3 Knowledge of mosquitoes and other vectors, life habits, and characteristics, especially species preferred breeding sites.

6143.4.4 Working knowledge of databases, word-processing, and spreadsheet computer applications.

6143.4.5 Considerable knowledge of hazard and safety precautions of the work.

6143.4.6 Working knowledge of automotive equipment and pesticide application equipment used by the District and of the techniques and methods used in effecting minor repairs.

6143.4.7 Ability to identify using keys the various species of mosquitoes and other vectors found in the District's service area.

6143.4.8 Ability to conduct comprehensive surveys for mosquitoes and other vectors.

6143.4.9 Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, management, other agencies, businesses, and the public.

6143.4.10 Ability to keep records and make reports; ability to make arithmetical computations accurately.

6143.4.11 Ability to understand, follow, and transmit oral and written instructions.

6143.4.12 Ability to learn to operate an ATV, tractor, mowers, and similar equipment.

6143.4.13 Physical strength and ability to work out-of-doors and occasionally under adverse weather and public health situations

6143.4.14 Must be able to hear, read, speak and understand English and be able to communicate effectively both orally and by writing letters and reports regarding the District's control program.

6143.4.15 Working knowledge of chemical application calibration techniques.

6143.4.16 Working knowledge of pesticide safety and handling.

6143.4.17 Basic knowledge of federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to driving, vector control, and disposal/storage of hazardous material.

6143.5 Working Conditions

6143.5.1 A Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV may be exposed to pesticides, communicable diseases, and other health hazards; inclement weather conditions, and verbal confrontations from the public. A Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV must be willing to occasionally work non-standard work schedules including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

6143.6 General Requirements

6143.6.1 A Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV is required to have been a Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist III with the District for 10 years, including the previous five years with at least a Very Good Employee Performance Appraisal and no disciplinary actions taken. A Mosquito and Vector Specialist III must apply for the Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV position.

6143.6.2 Possess or qualify for and immediately obtain and retain during the course of employment a valid California Driver's license, and have and maintain a safe driving record as required by the District's insurance carrier.

6143.6.3 Possession of valid certificates from the California Department of Public Health's certified technician in Mosquito and Vector Control categories A, B, C, and D and must be maintained throughout employment for this position.

6143.6.4 Have the ability to meet any requested experience and or education necessary to obtain any required licenses or certifications and retain such licenses or certification during the course of employment.

6143.6.5 Be able to provide clear verbal communication and be able to hear, read, understand and speak English.

6143.6.6 Be able to read and comprehend written instructions, including detailed technical instructions for repair, calibration, and operation of mechanical and electrical equipment, all spray equipment and safe handling instructions on pesticide labels.

6143.6.7 Be able to work safely with power and hand tools and is required, at all times, to wear any protective clothing and gear necessary for safe handling of those tools.

6143.6.8 Be willing to learn new and different skills and abilities as required by the District. A Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV may be assigned other tasks, as required by changing District programs and needs, and must be willing to take on new challenges as necessary.

6143.6.9 Not obtain outside employment, if in the District Manager's judgment it will conflict with the District program, or reduce the Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV's ability to satisfactorily perform required duties.

6143.7 Physical Requirements

6143.7.1 Employees are responsible for maintaining their physical condition in a state that will allow them to be able to perform the duties of their position and to be in a physical condition that does not increase the danger or likelihood of injury on the job.

6143.7.2 Body Movements: Must have full mobility and use of both arms. Must have the ability for full extension above the head to lift or remove equipment during normal daily activity. Must have full range of motion to climb and hike into surveillance and treatment areas that may include use of hands, legs and feet. Must have full mobility to assist in surveillance and control programs which involves climbing up and down steep brushy, muddy terrain to survey, abate vectors, to place traps and use other equipment in mosquito, yellow jacket, and tick habitat. Must have the ability and range of flexibility to reach over the head, reach below the knees and to bend over, stoop, or squat down. Must be able to move quickly in fieldwork areas known to be inhabited with venomous snakes, or other potentially dangerous vectors and animals. Must be able to swim and/or tread water.

6143.7.3 Constant: Activity or condition existing 2/3 or more of the time. Must be able to conduct field operations, to carry equipment weighing up to 50 pounds. Be able to inspect and treat vector breeding sources and test control measures by climbing or hiking into areas to locate and spray breeding areas. Have mobility of arms to reach and legs to walk and dexterity of hands and fingers to grasp and manipulate small objects. Must be able to work in weather ranging from below freezing to above 100° Fahrenheit while wearing the appropriate personal protection equipment for eye protection, hearing protection and respirator if required.

6143.7.4 Frequently: Activity or condition existing from 1/3 to 2/3 of the time. Lifts, carries and uses equipment and supplies weighing up to 50 pounds. Standing and sitting for extended periods while running laboratory tests, record review, and performing office duties. The position requires the frequent operation of a computer keyboard ranging in length from short to extended periods of time. Be able to operate a motor vehicle with a standard and automatic transmission.

6143.7.5 Occasionally: Activity or condition existing up to 1/3 of the time. Requires being able to climb over or through fences, climb ladders, squat, bend over and lift equipment up to 25 pounds above the head. Be able to climb and hike areas to survey and treat vector habitat or test control materials in rice fields, pastures, wetlands, flood control channels, urban environments and similar areas with rough terrain. Must be able to ride a bicycle.

6143.7.6 Vision: The position requires adequate vision (which may be corrected) to read, write, drive during the day and at night and safely perform the essential functions of the job under the conditions listed above.

6143.8 Post Offer Requirements

6143.8.1 Qualifying person must pass a post-offer physical examination for his or her ability to perform the essential functions of the job and a drug screen at District expense.

6143.9 Other Information

6143.9.1 Anyone employed as Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist IV at the time these amendments are adopted shall be considered to have met the education/experience requirements for this position.

6143.9.2 The District Manager and the Board of Trustees reserves the right to change or amend this job description at their pleasure.