
BENTON COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL

SURVEILLANCE TECHNICIAN JOB DESCRIPTION

PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT: Seasonal (April-September)
JOB LOCATION: Benton County Mosquito Control, West Richland
DEPARTMENT: Lab
SUPERVISOR: Kevin Shoemaker
REVISION DATE: February 24, 2020

SUMMARY:

Surveillance Technicians (lab personnel) directly report to the Assistant Manager and are responsible for providing mosquito control support for Benton County Mosquito Control. A Surveillance Tech is primarily responsible for surveying the mosquito populations in the District and has a secondary function of mosquito abatement when needed. Compliance with local, state, and federal law is required.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Set and gather traps, used for catching mosquitoes.
 - **Please note** that this job requires a fair amount of driving for the placement and collection of traps. On some days, a Surveillance Technician may spend ~50% of his/her day in a work truck travelling to different trapping sites.
- Learn to identify various mosquito species in the adult and larval stage.
 - Including the ability to separate and distinguish male versus female mosquitoes.
- Test mosquitoes for disease.
- Perform efficacy and resistance studies for pesticide applications; as the season's workload allows.
- Apply adulticides during evening applications.
 - This is not normally a requirement. Adulticiding applications are on a voluntary basis, UNLESS we are unable to get volunteers, then an equal distribution of nighttime work will be implemented.
- Investigate complaints of problem mosquito areas.
 - The ability to interact and clearly communicate with the public is a requirement.
- Accurately fill out daily activity sheets/reports; both hardcopy and digital formats.
 - The ability to use an Android operating system tablet is required (training will be provided).

- Coordinate with homeowners, local, county, and state agencies as necessary to reduce breeding sites.
- Successfully complete classroom and field training. And participate in provided continuing training in chemical application, state law, and licensing qualifications.
- Follow the seasonal production calendar to accomplish tasks in a timely and professional manner, according to specified deadlines.
- Assist District Manager, Field Supervisor, GIS/Public Information Officer, Maintenance staff, and other Control Operators with various tasks and perform additional duties and projects as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma or GED.
- Experience with Biology, Entomology, Public Health, sampling, or GIS (geographical information systems) are preferred.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be at least 18 years of age by the time of employment.
- Possess a valid driver's license. Individuals must also have reliable transportation to and from work.
- Must obtain a Washington State Pesticide Applicators License for Public Health within 3 weeks of employment.
- Be in good physical condition (able to lift 50 lbs. and walk ½ mile, with 50 lbs. pack, over uneven terrain).
- Have the ability to work with minimal direct supervision.

ABILITIES:

The successful candidate will share a passion for and commitment to the mission of Benton County Mosquito Control. Applicant must possess energy, enthusiasm, and initiative. The individual must be detail-orientated and capable of managing multiple tasks on a daily basis. Candidate must be experienced in hands-on work in support of and as part of a small, high-energy team. The ability to follow established, detailed procedures is necessary. Strong written and verbal communication skills are highly desirable. Experience in a science setting is preferred.