

Senior Communications Technician

Definition:

Under direction, assembles, installs, troubleshoots, maintains and repairs all electronic communications equipment utilized by the Communications division of the County of Kern General Services. Functions may be performed in various indoor/outdoor locations, including during various weather conditions and/or in confined spaces.

This is the advanced working lead level of the Communications Technician classification. It is distinguished from the entry level by the responsibility to perform the more complex and technically difficult work on electronic communications systems and related equipment.

Essential Functions:

- Assembles, installs, troubleshoots, maintains and repairs VHF/UHF/800MHz transmitters and receivers, antennas, repeater base stations and mobile relays and related radio equipment.
- Installs, troubleshoots, maintains and repairs digital microwave analog, digital RF and digital multiplex equipment for digital cross-connect network.
- Installs, troubleshoots, maintains and repairs closed circuit TV cameras, monitors, intercom, sound, alarm, and video conferencing systems.
- Installs, troubleshoots, maintains and repairs solar voltaic arrays, batteries and related equipment; radio consoles; two-way mobile, base, portable radios and computer modems.
- Operates scada systems, supervisory alarm systems and network management.
- Performs difficult and complex diagnosis, maintenance, installation, and repair of a variety of communications electronic equipment, using diagnostic methods, tools, test equipment, circuit diagrams and technical manuals to keep systems in good working order.
- Designs, installs, troubleshoots, maintains and repairs wiring for voice and data networks, alarm systems and audio/video systems, including fiber optic cable. Identify wiring by color codes and perform separation on a punch block.
- Oversees field performance records of repeaters, digital microwave system, and maintains computer network controlled dispatch console system.
- Provides technical guidance to subordinate staff; assists and advises in the development of staff.
- Consults with other agencies, engineers, vendors and users to identify and resolve telecommunications and network administration issues.
- Maintains written records to document the technical history of equipment and for billing purposes.
- Performs field engineering on electronic communications equipment.
- May climb towers and other structures to install, reconfigure and repair radio or microwave communications equipment situated in varied locations, confining spaces and in various weather conditions.
- Available on a rotational basis for after hours and weekend call-outs for system-related problems.
- Performs other job-related duties as required.

Employment Standards:

Possession of a certificate in electronic technology from an accredited two (2) year college and one (1) year of experience in the installation and maintenance of electronic and mobile communications equipment or three (3) years of experience in the communications industry

AND

Possession of one of the following license/certifications:

A general class Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) license

OR

Associated Public Safety Communications (APCO) certificate

OR

Electronics Technical Association (E.T.A), Certified Electrical Technician (C.E.T) Master Certificate or an equivalent

OR

An industry equivalent license/certification

Certifications/Licenses Required:

Possession of a valid class C California Driver's license is required at the time of appointment.

Incumbents may be required to obtain Climber/Rescuer certification within six months of appointment. Failure to obtain or maintain the required certification may result in termination.

Knowledge of: Federal Communications Commission regulations relating to radio and microwave equipment; theory of radio communications and electronics; troubleshooting techniques for electronic communications systems; electronics assembly, installation, maintenance and repair; telephone equipment installation and operation; simulcast transmission and receiver voting systems; understanding of basic Network Protocol and Operation.

Ability to: Use electronic communications test equipment, software programs, hardware, and small hand/power tools; read and interpret schematic diagrams and complex technical reference manuals; gather organize and analyze complex data relative to communication performance; draw logical conclusions and formulate recommendations to either solve problems, provide performance improvement, or equipment upgrades; effectively communicate with staff and customers and work calmly under pressure; plan and prioritize assigned work and work effectively within a team format; remain up-to-date with technological advances of interest to the County; show initiative, ingenuity, and sound judgment in identifying and solving difficult

technical problems; safely lift and move telecommunications equipment and necessary tools as required by the job.

Supplemental:

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated “Disaster Service Workers” through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec. 3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services.) As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable following a significant emergency or disaster.