

**Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN**

**Class Purpose:**

Under general supervision, Communications Systems Technicians perform technical duties while supporting, troubleshooting, repairing and maintaining specific programs and/or systems within the Systems Division. The Systems Division is responsible for all information management systems and equipment, which includes a multi-functional, multi-jurisdictional computer-aided-dispatch (CAD) and 9-1-1 system, a consolidated law enforcement records management (RMS) and mobile computer (MDC) system, **geographical information systems (GIS)**, and other telecommunications console and network equipment. This is the entry level class in the Public Safety Systems series.

**Distinguishing Characteristics:**

Public Safety Systems Technicians provide support for and troubleshoot, repair and maintain various programs and/or systems as assigned. Systems may consist of hardware and/or software at the workstation and server levels. This position reports to a Systems Coordinator who is responsible for supervising and administering specific programs and systems within the Systems Division. The next lower classification of Public Safety Dispatcher is within the Public Safety Dispatcher series.

**Typical Tasks:**

Responsible for on-going maintenance and programming of specific programs and/or systems as assigned, which may include (but are not limited to) Law Enforcement Records Management files and equipment, Mobile Computer files and equipment, Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) files and equipment, E9-1-1 equipment, Local Area Networking, and/or remote User Terminals,.

Responsible for the maintenance of information files within assigned system(s) in order to ensure that automated systems are up-to-date and current, and that management information reports are readily available.

**Responsible for public safety mapping including the use and maintenance of geographical information systems hardware and software and ensuring ongoing accuracy of the Center's mapping data.**

Assist in providing specialized training courses and education for new and existing dispatch and User Agency personnel; may teach classes or individuals as appropriate. Assist in the setup of computer labs and training centers.

Confer with users of a system regarding operating problems. Perform routine troubleshooting and identify possible solutions and/or alternate courses of action. Respond to system users by phone, e-mail and on-site visits.

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Perform installation and upgrades of software. Install and support local area network hardware and software.

Keep informed regarding developments in microcomputer, minicomputer, and mobile data computer technology and related issues.

Maintain inventory of computer equipment for assigned system(s).

Prepare documentation and maintains records for assigned projects.

Act for a Senior Systems Technician during his/her absence.

**Qualifications:**

Knowledge of:

- Contemporary PC-based operating systems; relational data base management systems; local and wide area networks; programming techniques and documentation; debugging techniques; data storage methods and techniques; data communication methods and devices; and data security techniques.
- Principles and practices of network operating systems, including but not limited to Microsoft DOS and Windows NT/2000/XP.
- Principles, procedures, practices, techniques and nomenclature associated with mobile data computer, microcomputer, and data-communication systems and operations
- Capabilities and limitations of related hardware including PC's, monitors, printers, disk storage, and communication devices.
- Capabilities and limitations of mobile data computers, microcomputer software, including operating systems.
- Microsoft DOS and Windows NT/2000/XP.
- **Geofile maintenance including public safety mapping systems.**

Skill and Ability to:

- Interpret and apply rules, regulations, policies and procedures to system and equipment needs, specifications, guidelines and enhancements

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- Implement innovative and practical approaches to respond to the public safety communications information and system management needs of the Center and its User Agencies.
- Work closely with numerous and diverse organizations and personnel to accomplish system related tasks and projects.
- Instruct personnel on the proper use and operation of various systems and equipment necessary for their use.
- Install, configure, maintain and repair computers, peripheral equipment and microcomputer application and utility software, including MS-DOS, Windows NT/2000/XP operating systems.
- Effectively deal with equipment malfunctions, deadlines, and fluctuating workloads
- Troubleshoot hardware and software problems and determine effective solutions.
- Work safely, particularly around electronic equipment.
- Develop and maintain appropriate documentation.
- Work with and maintain the confidentiality of sensitive information.
- Communicate effectively in both oral and written modes.

**Training and Experience:**

Any combination of training and experience which would provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge, skills and abilities would be the equivalent of graduation from high school supplemented by college level course work in computer systems or data communications plus one (1) year of experience relating to computer system administration and maintenance. Specific experience in public safety dispatching and/or technical system experience within a police, fire, emergency medical or consolidated emergency communications center is highly desirable. **One year experience working with Geographical Information Systems, preferred.**

**Minimum Employment Standards:**

The minimum employment standards for all classifications are established by Policy No. 1021 and detailed within the Critical/Essential Job Functions for the position.

**Licenses/Certificates:**

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Possession of a valid driver's license authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle within the State of California (within 30 days of employment) is required.

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***ESSENTIAL/CRITICAL JOB FUNCTIONS***

**Typical Tasks:**

The *Typical Tasks* are detailed in the Class Specification entitled *Public Safety Communications Systems Technician* and are those duties that are essential to the function of this position.

**Minimum Employment Standards:**

Must be eighteen (18) years of age.

This is the minimum age for full time public employment.

Have color vision adequate to determine various console lighting and color monitor displays.

A primary function of this position is to perform updating, programming, and computerized file building tasks, including the assignment of color-coding using a computer terminal or personal computer with a color monitor.

Have the ability to read, write and speak clear and concise English.

The position must be able to read, write and speak in clear and concise English in order to assist other employees and User Agency representatives in the function and operation of systems and equipment. The position must also be able to transform detailed technical documents into readable, written material for non-technical persons and review written requests and discuss system and equipment needs and functions with interested technical and non-technical persons.

Have legible handwriting.

The reasons stated in the above standard also apply to this standard.

Have the physical, mental and functional ability to work effectively and accurately in a fast paced environment and to remain calm and professional when handling potentially stressful incidents.

The positions primary responsibility is to provide information management and automated support critical to the Center's ability to receive emergency 9-1-1 telephone calls involving the safety of life and property, and the dispatching of suitable law enforcement, fire and medical resources and equipment. During times of emergency, the position will be required to make split second decisions regarding the handling of unforeseen situations or events that may overload the dispatch systems. Mental stability is critical in fulfilling the responsibilities listed above. Physical and functional attributes for Systems Technician are listed under *Physical Requirements* in a following section of this document.

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Have an ability to pass a comprehensive law enforcement background investigation.

Required due to the position's access to confidential law enforcement information.

Shall not have been convicted of any felony or any other crime which would prohibit Department of Justice approval to access law enforcement information.

Required due to the position's access to confidential law enforcement information.

**Licenses/Certificates:**

Possession of a valid drivers license.

Approximately 25% of the time, the Systems Technician will be required to drive to the public safety provider agencies and other local government entities within the County of Santa Cruz (Capitola, Santa Cruz, Watsonville and Scotts Valley) to work on systems and equipment. There is no staff available to drive the Systems Technician. Due to the geography and location of the general area, and the 24-hour nature of the service provided, transportation is reasonable only by automobile.

**Physical Requirements:**

**Strength**

Opening and closing file drawers; carrying stacks of computer print outs and discs, files, records, and large reel recording tapes; carrying all types of office, dispatch, radio and computer equipment and supplies including replacement units such as video display terminal; rearrange chairs and tables in the Conference/Training Room and Emergency Operating Center (EOC) for meetings, drills, training exercises and disaster operations; rearrange console equipment; be able to propel one's self between a desk, computer work station and files; be able to move about in a 15,000 square foot, single story facility throughout the day, and to various off-site locations throughout the County; stand behind and bend over dispatchers who are working on a CAD dispatch terminal during training programming or on-line situations; stand for an extended period of time to update wall mounted displays, maps and charts.

**Flexibility**

Bend, reach and stoop to change and playback master tape recordings; bend over dispatchers and data operators to assist them with their work.

**Coordination, Movement and Dexterity**

Operate playback recorder controls in order to find an incident on a master recording tape; operate computer or CAD terminal, enter information and talk on the telephone; select proper buttons on telephone and other office communications devices; input

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information into CAD system and personal computer; type on personal computer and CAD terminal.

Vision and Hearing

Read video display terminals, letters, reports, forms and documents; hear faint conversations on a master tape recording; hear and observe employee and User Agency meeting or public groups; determine which telephone line is ringing by the pitch of the audio; observe the operations of the Center; discriminate colors on a color coded CAD video display terminal.