

JOB TITLE: Death Investigator
EMPLOYEE:

DOT #: 168.161-010
CLAIM #



King County

KING COUNTY ON SITE JOB ANALYSIS

JOB TITLE Death Investigator

JOB CLASSIFICATION Death Investigator I

DOT TITLE Coroner (government serv.) alternate titles: Medical Examiner

DOT NUMBER 168.161-010

DEPARTMENT Public Health

DIVISION Medical Examiner

OF POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT WITH THIS JOB TITLE 11

JOB STATUS

Full Time, Career Service.

ADDRESS OF WORKSITE

325 Ninth Avenue
HMC Box 359792
Seattle, WA 98104-2499

CONTACT'S NAME Greg Hewett

CONTACT'S PHONE (206) 731-3232

EMPLOYER JOB TITLE Program Analyst IV

DATE COMPLETED 2/1/02

VRC NAME Jeff Casem

DATE REVISED 9/11/09

WORK HOURS

10 hours a day, 4 days a week with 2 fifteen-minute breaks and either one 30 or 60-minute lunch per shift.

OVERTIME

Optional, frequent.

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JOB DESCRIPTION

Investigating sudden, violent, unexpected and suspicious deaths that come under the jurisdiction of the King County Medical Examiner. This is the first and second level of a three-level classification series. This classification is distinguished from other classifications in that the incumbent works predominantly with field investigations and acts as a liaison between the King County Medical Examiner's office and outside agencies, families and the public with regard to death investigation.

ESSENTIAL ABILITIES FOR ALL KING COUNTY JOB CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Ability to demonstrate predictable, reliable, and timely attendance.
2. Ability to follow written and verbal directions and to complete assigned tasks on schedule.
3. Ability to read, write & communicate in English and understand basic math.
4. Ability to learn from directions, observations, and mistakes, and apply procedures using good judgement.
5. Ability to work independently or part of a team; ability to interact appropriately with others.
6. Ability to work with supervision, receiving instructions/feedback, coaching/counseling and/or action/discipline.

JOB SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Ability to work in hazardous environments that may include biohazards, guns, accident scenes, traffic, and close proximity to body fluids. Ability to cope with strong, offensive odors. Ability to work with mutilated and decomposed human bodies, work in isolation, and work in a graveyard shift while staying alert. Ability to work in the dark at hazardous sites in unfamiliar settings. Ability to work with extreme emotions and unpredictable behavior from family or other people at death site. Ability to multitask under pressure and to communicate clearly with people in a stressful situation including family of deceased, strangers, police, co-workers, etc...

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS Listed in order of importance

1. Investigate and collect information relating to cause and manner of death.
2. Answer telephones to gather information to assume or decline death jurisdiction; respond to inquiries from media, investigative agencies, public, families, etc.
3. Respond via telephone or scene response to deaths where jurisdiction is assumed.
4. Investigate death scene; record scene observations, photo-document death scene and remains and interview witnesses.
5. Transport bodies, evidence and personal effects to Medical Examiners Office from death site.
6. Initiate identification process.
7. Locate and notify next of kin or legal representative.

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8. Determine disposition of body, make visual examination of body if appropriate.
9. Collect, record and safeguard property and evidence; release to next of kin or appropriate investigative agency.
10. Transport and/or arrange transportation of remains in varying degrees of decomposition to the King County Medical examiner's office and process remains including weighing, fingerprinting and examining.
11. Locate and collect lab samples and record, including healthcare, police and other records.
12. Facilitate organ donation if appropriate.
13. Use computer to enter data and write report of investigation.
14. Facilitate disposition of remains, which may include burial, transit and cremation permits.
15. Conduct follow-up investigation for unresolved issues such as identification, notification and information regarding manner and cause of death.

TOOLS, MACHINES, EQUIPMENT, PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES USED

Computer, King County response vehicle, stretcher/gurney, body bag, sheet, camera, flashlight, pager, scene kit, various pieces of evidence, reference books, log books, telephone, medical records, folders, and fingerprinting kit. The employee may also use a low friction sheet of plastic called a sked to aid in the dragging of bodies.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS AS JOB IS TYPICALLY PERFORMED

Continuously = occurs 66-100% of the time

Frequently = occurs 33-66% of the time

Occasionally = occurs 1-33% of the time

Rare = may occur less than 1% of the time

Never = does not ever occur (such demands are not listed)

This job is classified as

Light by the DOT, but in this particular case it is Very Heavy.

Standing

Occasionally on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation for up to 10 minutes at a time for up to 2 hours total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while investigating death scenes and waiting to remove body from death scene.

Walking

Occasionally on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation for distances of up to 3 miles in up to 30 minute intervals for up to 2 hours total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while transporting files, removing and

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transporting bodies from death scenes. Death scenes can range from urban private homes and apartments to wilderness and rural areas.

Sitting

Frequently on an office chair or automobile seat for 2 hours at a time for up to 5.5 hours total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while driving a county van with an automatic transmission.

Climbing stairs

Occasionally for 5 minutes at a time while climbing 48 stairs for up to 15 times total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while walking from the office to the loading docks to the morgue and autopsy room. Employee may also have to climb several flights of stairs to remove a body from the upstairs of a house or from an apartment building.

Climbing

Occasionally on a ladder, chair, or in to an attic or loft to heights of up to 10 feet for 5 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while climbing on a ladder to take pictures or investigate a death scene.

Bending/Stooping

Occasionally on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation surfaces for 30 seconds at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while looking on the ground for a bullet casing or other items related to the death.

Kneeling

Occasionally on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation surfaces for 30 seconds at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while looking on the ground for a bullet casing or other items related to the death.

Crouching

Occasionally on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation surfaces for 2-3 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs while inspecting a crawl space or attic. The employee may also crouch while looking on the ground for a bullet casing or other items related to the death.

Crawling

Occasionally on multiple surfaces that may include carpet, linoleum, trash and debris covered floors, dirt, cement, mud, rocks, gravel and overgrown vegetation surfaces for 2-3 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most

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commonly occurs while inspecting a crawl space or attic. The employee may also crawl while looking on the ground for a bullet casing or other items related to the death.

Operating Controls with Feet

Frequently for up to 2 hours at a time for up to 4 hours total in a work shift while driving a county response vehicle.

Reaching above shoulder height

Occasionally for 5 minutes at a time for up to 1 hour total in a work shift while investigating a death scene and removing items related to the death.

Reaching at waist to shoulder height

Frequently for up to 2 hours at a time for up to 6 hours total in a work shift while operating a county van and completing computer work.

Reaching at knee to waist height

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift while inspecting and investigating death site.

Reaching at floor to knee height

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift while inspecting and investigating death scene.

Lifting 1-10 pounds

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 3-5 pounds while holding a camera and taking pictures as well as picking up items at the death scene.

Carrying 1-10- pounds

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 3-5 pounds while using a camera and removing articles from the death scene.

Lifting 11-20 pounds

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 20 pounds while holding an investigation kit. In some cases investigation kits may exceed 20 pounds.

Carrying 11-20 pounds

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 20 pounds while transporting an investigation kit to a death scene. In some cases investigation kits may exceed 20 pounds.

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Lifting 21-50 pounds

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 25 pounds while holding an investigation kit.

Carrying 21-50 pounds

Frequently for 10 minutes at a time for a distance for up to 30 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 25 pounds while transporting an investigation kit for up to 150 feet to a death scene. On a rare occasion the Death Investigator may need to carry their investigation kit up to 3 miles in the wilderness.

Lifting 51-100 pounds

Occasionally for 5 minutes at a time for up to 5 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 75 pounds while raising one side of a gurney with a body on it.

Carrying 51-100 pounds

Rare for 5 minutes at a time for up to 5 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 75 pounds while transporting a body on a backboard with the assistance of another person.

Lifting 100+ pounds

Rare for 5 minutes at a time for up to 5 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 100-150 pounds while lifting a 200-300 pound body on a backboard with the assistance of another person. On rare occasion the body may weigh as much as 600lbs and additional help is required.

Carrying 100+ pounds

Rare for 5 minutes at a time for up to 5 minutes total in a work shift. Most commonly occurs with weights of 100-150 pounds while transporting a 200-300pound body on a backboard with the assistance of another person. On rare occasion the body may weigh as much as 600lbs and additional help is required.

Pushing and Pulling

Most commonly the Death Investigator will push or pull a 100-250-pound body on a gurney or sked for distances up to 300 feet on all conceivable surfaces. On a rare occasion the Death Investigator may need to pull a body out of the wilderness on a sked for distances of up to 3 miles for 30 minutes at a time. The death investigator also must push and pull a body while maneuvering it from awkward positions or difficult places on to a sked or gurney. Awkward positions and difficult places of the body may include in a bathtub, car wreckage, water, woods, attic, crawl space, and every other conceivable location.

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Handling

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 8 hours total in a work shift while driving a county response vehicle, holding investigation kit, using camera, moving objects at death scene, removing objects from death scene, tightening straps on gurney or sked, and maneuvering bodies.

Operating Controls with Hands

Frequently for up to 2 hours at a time for up to 4 hours total in a work shift while driving a county van.

Fingering

Occasionally for 10 minutes at a time for up to 2 hours total in a work shift while entering data in to a computer, typing reports, writing with a pen or pencil, and manipulating small objects at a death scene such as a bullet casing.

Feeling

Occasionally for 1 hour at a time for up to 2 hours total in a work shift while inspecting a death scene. The death investigator may need to feel around for objects in the dark, bullet casings on the ground, or for other objects that may be related to the death investigation.

Talking

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while communicating with co-workers, police officers, families of victims, firemen, emergency medical personnel, funeral directors, morticians, medical examiners, witnesses, or any other people that may be involved in or related to the death investigation.

Hearing

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while communicating with co-workers, police officers, families of victims, firemen, emergency medical personnel, funeral directors, morticians, medical examiners, witnesses, or any other people that may be involved in or related to the death investigation.

Tasting/Smelling

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while being around decomposing bodies or death scene. The Death Investigators need to be able to smell for chemicals such as gasoline at a traffic accident.

Near acuity—clarity of vision at 20 inches or less

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while investigating death scenes, reading reports, viewing computer monitor, and reading the gauges on the county van while driving.

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Far acuity—clarity of vision at 20 feet or more

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while investigating death scenes and driving a county van.

Depth perception—three dimensional vision

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while investigating death scenes and driving a county van.

Color vision—ability to identify and distinguish colors

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while investigating death scenes and driving a county van. A death investigator needs to be able to distinguish colors for traffic lights and for descriptions of death scenes.

Field of vision—observing an area that can be seen up and down or right or left while eyes are fixed on a given point

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while investigating death scenes and driving a county van.

Night vision--seeing after sundown with minimal or no supplemental light sources

Continuously for 4 hours at a time for up to 10 hours total in a work shift while investigating death scenes and driving a county van.

TEMPERAMENTS

Directing, controlling, or planning activities of others: Frequently
Performing repetitive or short-cycle work: Continuously
Influencing people in their opinions, attitudes, and judgements: Continuously
Performing a variety of duties: Continuously
Expressing personal feelings: Occasionally
Working alone or apart in physical isolation from others: Frequently
Working effectively under stress: Continuously
Working under specific instructions: Continuously
Working with others: Continuously
Making judgements and decisions: Continuously

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Work is performed in a variety of settings that can range from houses to apartments and from urban to rural and wilderness locations. The employee may work in hazardous environments that may include biohazards, guns, accident scenes, traffic, and close proximity to body fluids. The Death Investigator is exposed to strong, offensive odors as well as mutilated and decomposed human bodies.

The noise level varies from very quiet to very loud.

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Workers are exposed to

Outside weather: Frequently
Extreme cold: Frequently
Extreme heat: Frequently
Wet: Frequently
Humidity/dampness: Frequently
Fumes: Frequently
Odors: Frequently
Dusts: Frequently
Mists: Frequently
Gases: Frequently
Poor ventilation: Occasionally
Moving mechanical parts: Occasionally
Vibration: Frequently
Working in high, exposed places: Occasionally
Radiation: Occasionally
Working with explosives: Occasionally
Toxic or caustic chemicals: Frequently

Potential Modifications

Walking stick for assistance when walking on uneven ground.
Rests/breaks as needed during extended periods of walking.

Signature & title of evaluator

Date

Signature & title of contact

Date

Signature & title of employee

Date

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HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SECTION

Check all that apply

☐ The employee is released to perform the described duties without restrictions on performance or work hours.

☐ The employee is released to perform the described duties on a reduced schedule. The recommended schedule is:

☐ Temporary until _____ ☐ Permanent as of _____

☐ The employee is released to perform the described job with the following modifications:

☐ Temporary until _____ ☐ Permanent as of _____

☐ The employee is not released to perform the described duties due to the following job functions:

☐ Temporary until _____ ☐ Permanent effective _____

☐ The employee is unable to work in any capacity.
A release to work is: ☐ anticipated by _____ ☐ Not expected

The limitations are due to the following objective medical findings:

Printed or typed name and phone number of Health Care Provider

Signature of Health Care Provider

Date