

## **PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER - LATERAL**

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Classification Responsibilities:** A Public Safety Dispatcher - Lateral performs most of the duties of a Public Safety Dispatcher based on previous 911 Operator or dispatching experience. An incumbent in this class learns to perform the full scope of duties of a Mesa Public Safety Dispatcher through a structured on-the-job training program tailored to each individual's experience, or lack of, in the areas of answering 911 calls, dispatching fire and emergency medical services, or dispatching police services. Incumbents are trained according to Mesa Police Department policies and operating procedures. Duties include: receiving calls from the public; evaluating the calls for proper action; and initiating Police or Fire response by obtaining information required for dispatching field units. An employee in this class learns to dispatch messages and calls by voice and computer to Police or Fire units and to maintain radio contact with mobile units. This class performs related duties as required.

**Distinguishing Features:** This is a civilian trainee class that works in the Public Safety Communications Center. Training is provided by a Public Safety Dispatcher on special assignment or a Public Safety Communications Shift Supervisor. Typically, intense training is provided for ten to twelve weeks; however, additional training to reach full performance may be required. As training progresses, employees are expected to demonstrate extensive communication skills, and to exercise good judgement under pressure. An employee in this class must progress by noncompetitive promotion within a specified time frame to the classification of Public Safety Dispatcher (assigned to either Police or Fire and Medical emergency services) after successful completion of training and satisfactory performance. A Public Safety Dispatcher - Lateral may be assigned to either a day, swing, or graveyard shift on a regular, rotational basis that includes nights, weekends, and holidays. This class is FLSA nonexempt.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

**Employee Values:** All employees of the City of Mesa are expected to uphold and exhibit the City's shared employee values of Knowledge, Respect, and Integrity.

**Minimum Qualifications Required.** Graduation from high school or GED. Any combination of training, education, and experience equivalent to at least two years of work experience in communications involving one or more of the following areas: dispatching fire/emergency medical services or dispatching police services at a Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for ***Police Department Assignments***, also known as a 911 Center, or a Primary or Secondary PSAP for ***Fire and Medical Department Assignments***. A typing speed of at least 35 net words per minute. Experience with computer data entry and/or in dealing with emergency traffic.

**Special Requirements.** Because of the confidential, sensitive nature of information handled, successful completion of a background investigation is required. Polygraph testing will be required for all ***Police Department Assignments***. Candidates given a conditional job offer will be required to successfully complete a hearing test. The ***Police Department Assignment*** will also require a psychological examination. After hire, employees in ***Fire and Medical Department Assignment*** are required to successfully complete the Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) certification training course.

**Substance Abuse Testing.** Due to the safety and/or security sensitive nature of this classification, individuals shall be subject to pre-employment/pre-placement and random alcohol, drug and/or controlled substance testing as outlined in City policy and procedures.

**Preferred/Desirable Qualifications.** Bilingual speaking skills (English/Spanish) are desirable.

## **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

**Communication:** Communicates first with an instructor, and then as training progresses, by telephone with the general public, in order to gain experience in obtaining facts quickly and accurately through the use of questions and tone of voice appropriate to the nature of the call. Learns to communicate on a base radio system with Police Officers or Firefighters in order to obtain or relay information. Enunciates clearly and correctly to facilitate communication. Under hypothetical learning situations and then in actual circumstances, keys messages on a Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) terminal that is directed to Police Officers or Firefighters in responding to a call using clearly organized thoughts, expressed in a structured format and sequence which is taught and practiced, in order to relay information to units about an incident.

**Manual/Physical:** Receives training provided verbally by an instructor who simulates the types of phone calls received from the public. After classroom practice, receives phone calls from the public who are seeking public safety assistance. Enters information directly into a computer as it is being broadcast over the radio or obtained over the phone. Types at a minimum sustained rate of 35 net words per minute. Detects distinct tones from a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD). Detects unclear or unusual sounds on the phone or radio system that might be a call for help. Reads training material in order to learn the facts, procedures, and restrictions which are applied in call evaluations and radio protocol. Learns to visually monitor unit status on a screen in order to maintain knowledge of the current status of Police Officers or Firefighters, and the calls assigned to them. Switches to manual operations when the CAD system is not working. Operates a multi button telephone system, base radios, computer terminals, and teletype equipment to receive and transmit information. Works while confined to a communications console area under conditions requiring close contact with other employees, often during stressful conditions. Reads maps in order to give verbal directions on the phone to persons who are unfamiliar with the City.

**Mental:** Completes study guides requiring reading and interpretation of procedures and application of those procedures in order to pass written examinations. Distinguishes between emergency and non-emergency calls when given criteria, practice, and feedback. Practices determining answers to questions by accessing various resources (computer system, files, schedules, rosters) in order to obtain accurate information. Uses logic or other problem-solving tools in data analysis or in generating solutions. Practices deciding (with decreasing assistance) which, and the number of, Police or Fire units to dispatch by considering such factors as time of day, description and location of calls, beat unit or equipment available, and probable degree of hazard to personnel responding. Evaluates, with practice, caller's answers to questions in order to determine the urgency of the call and whether Police or Fire personnel should be dispatched to the scene. Practices and gains proficiency in acquiring and entering information provided by citizens via phone (including uncooperative callers) and by officers or firefighters via radio, directly into the CAD system by listening to content, asking clarifying questions, controlling the conversation, and determining the course of action to take within time constraints and departmental procedures. Acquires proficiency through practice in prioritizing multiple tasks such as answering the

radio and phone, dispatching calls, acknowledging messages, and running inquiries. Learns the geography and operating procedures of other jurisdictions for multi-jurisdictional and automatic aide agreements.

**Knowledge and Abilities:**

Knowledge of:

basic telephone etiquette;  
public relations techniques;  
the Federal Communications Commission rules and regulations pertaining to the operation of public safety, municipal government, and public utility radio communications services; and  
police or fire department organization, procedures, and operating policies.

Ability to:

acquire a working knowledge of the geography and organizational structure of the City of Mesa including streets and their hundred blocks, the relative distance between streets, City boundary limits, sectors and beat areas, and fire response districts;  
learn the operating procedures of the Public Safety Communications Center;  
acquire a working knowledge of the geography, equipment, and procedures of other jurisdictions that Mesa has contracted with to provide fire/emergency medical services dispatching, and the mutual and automatic aide agreements with surrounding agencies;  
successfully complete EMD training;  
perform several tasks simultaneously;  
monitor police or fire alarm panels;  
maintain a record of all police or fire activity;  
enter data into a computer as it is being received;  
operate CAD equipment;  
operate a base radio;  
dispatch fire or police calls, listen to incoming phone information, and assimilate spoken instructions or information from other dispatchers or a shift supervisor;  
scan the personal computer (PC) screen rapidly in order to select pertinent information;  
shut out extraneous information from other radio channels and coworkers, while selectively listening to information recognized as crucial;  
learn, understand, and carry out specific procedural steps;  
speak with a clear, well-modulated and pleasant voice;  
deal effectively with upset individuals in obtaining information;  
handle negative comments and feedback from the public;  
cope with emotionally tense situations;  
remember details and make decisions under stressful conditions; and  
establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers, supervisors, police and fire field personnel, and the general public.

The duties listed above are intended only as general illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. Specific statements of duties not included does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position. Job descriptions are subject to change by the City as the needs of the City and requirements of the job change.

Revised 11/15

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EEO-A/S

NDOT SAFETY-Yes

NDOT RANDOM-No

DOT SAFETY-No

RESP-No

JOB FCTN-PUB

INCREMENTS 62-200

PAY GRADE: 43

SECURITY-Yes

CDL-No

IND-8810

SWORN-No