

OES-5262 is set up as a mobile communications and incident support vehicle. It is currently assigned to Region 2 as an Op area resource. Although it is set up for mobile communications and identified as a back up to REDCOM, its primary OES mission and use is as an **incident support unit** supporting the OES Region Chiefs on large scale incidents in the role of Agency Rep (A-Rep) to local government.

With the increase in the number and scope of large fires around the state and increased use of local government resources, we have experienced a noticeable increase in the number of requests for this resource over the last couple years. All though the resource is assigned to Region 2, it can be called anywhere in the State and we have sent it from the Oregon border to Southern California and everywhere in between. It's not uncommon for it to be deployed 2-3 weeks at a time and depending on the fire season, it has the potential to be deployed and committed several times throughout the fire season. Usually deployed on major campaign fires depending on the number of local government resources and typically the last to leave, after all the local government ST's have been demob/released. Sonoma County Fire has found it increasingly difficult to meet the staffing demands and after much consideration we have notified OES we will not be able to staff and maintain the resource beyond May 2017.

The State covers the cost of repair and maintenance but the host agency usually is responsible to coordinate getting it to an approved shop. Sonoma County Heavy Fleet has maintained the vehicle for the last several years but all and any work must be coordinated through the OES Region 2 Chief and pre-approved by the State Fleet shop. The current rig is a beast to drive, with a manual transmission, split shift rear end, and air brakes, requiring a class-B or FF exempt CDL. Maintaining qualified driver/operators has also been a challenge. The good news, it is due for replacement but no firm date.

Staffing requirements, typically OES-5262 is staffed with 2 Tech-Specs. At least one needs to be certified to drive and operate the rig and we have found it beneficial to send the second person following in a chase vehicle. There is a task book for the position (A-Rep, Tech-Spec) as well as the driver operator training component. Much of the task book can be completed in house but the final sign off requires going out as a Trainee at least once. This position is typically assigned to work in the base camp, and works directly for and in support of the OES Region Assistant Chiefs. The position requires a basic understanding of the California Master Mutual Aid process and agreements, as well as strong organizational, clerical, filing, knowledge of computers, spread sheets (excel), and good written and oral communication skills. Attention to detail and procedures is equally important. The primary responsibilities of the position are to assist with the processing of the local government pay documents (F-42's), maintaining resource sit/stat and tracking (T-Cards), assisting with processing comp-claims, order and supply forms, maintaining 214 log, etc.

OES would prefer to have the Tech-Spec staff available for 14 day commitments but will typically accommodate a 7 day staffing rotation if needed. The work period is up to the OES Chief but routinely are long hours, (0600 - 2200 is not uncommon). Staff should be prepared to sleep at base camp in tents or in the rig as motels are not always available or guaranteed.

I've tried to provide a candid overview of the requirements and our experience staffing OES-5262. With that said, and notwithstanding the benefits of maintaining this as a local resource, OES-5262 provides great opportunities and experience for qualified staff. Please contact OES Region-2 Assistant Chief John Salvate with any additional related questions or interest.

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