

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM POTENTIAL VEST MEMBERS**  
VEST Recruitment – 2006

Q: Does the VEST training take place in Sacramento?

A: There are three Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs) used for training sites. They are located in: Los Alamitos (Southern), Oakland (Coastal) and Sacramento (Inland). Where the VEST member resides determines their training location. We attempt to use the three REOCs but sometimes the type of training determines the location of the training. Other areas that have been used for training include Monterey Park, Los Angeles and areas near disaster response activities.

Q: Who pays for the time I am in training?

A: While a VEST member, you remain in your regular position/classification and receive your normal monthly pay check. During training your department pays for your regular work week schedule. There is no overtime pay for training. We try to schedule training Tuesday through Thursday.

Q: Who pays for the time I am deployed?

A: While a VEST member, you remain in your regular position/classification and receive your normal monthly pay check. During deployment your department pays for your regular work week schedule. The California Department of Social Services pays for any authorized accrued overtime, per diem and travel.

Q: Can I have an information packet?

A: Yes, you can obtain an information packet by calling the Disaster and Client Services Bureau at (916) 651-8880.

Q: Can Retired Annuitants apply for the VEST Team?

A: No.

Q: Do I have to use any of my leave time to cover when I am away from my office during training or deployment?

A: No.

Q: What is the longest I would be away from my work section/office during a deployment?

A: The minimum deployment is five days and the maximum deployment is 15 days. At the time you are accepted as a VEST member, you will receive the VEST Statement of Understanding (included in the information package). The Statement of Understanding lists in detail the provisions of becoming a VEST member. You and your supervisor must sign the Statement of Understanding before we finalize your membership.

Q: What are the locations of deployment?

A: Usually within the state of California. There have been special requests from other states for assistance by our VEST members (i.e., Hurricane Katrina). These requests must be approved by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Health and Human Services Agency, and the California Department of Social Services. As with any deployment, your supervisor must approve.