

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR  
SENIOR LOAD DISPATCHER  
CLASS CODE 5235**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **SENIOR LOAD DISPATCHER**. (Numbers refers to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. Judgment and Decision Making
- 6. Attention to Detail
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 28. Supervision
- 33. Interpersonal Skills
- 45. Oral Communication
- 47. Written Communication
- 50. Process Improvement

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized*, **bolded**, and underlined), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

**3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING** . Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).
- Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.
- Level 3: **Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

**6. ATTENTION TO DETAIL** . Extremely careful in addressing all aspects of each work assignment in order to produce %completed staff work+and/or avoid any negative outcomes.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Ensure all aspects of work assignment are completed as directed.
- Level 2: Verify that each aspect of work assignment is properly completed; make logical inference regarding additional activities that may need to be performed to produce %completed staff work.+
- Level 3: **Include evaluation of final work/work product in its accomplishment; make adjustments as possible to improve.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Carefully checks all aspects of work for completion and accuracy before submitting.
- Identifies errors (for example, typos, computations, measurements, application of laws/rules/policies) and corrects them prior to submitting.
- Cross-checks work against available resources.
- Sets up a means of checks and balances to ensure work accuracy.
- Considers changes in final work product to ensure usability by recipient.
- Completes all revisions upon request.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Ensures that each task accomplished represents %completed staff work.+ No remaining details/ inconsistencies for others to address.

Superior

All aspects of each task completed are verified to be correct. Identifies any foreseeable consequences of work that may need to be addressed and does so.

**20. JOB KNOWLEDGE** . Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.
- Level 2: Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.
- Level 3: **Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (coaching) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

## Job Knowledge Areas

1. Knowledge of issues commonly associated with electric transmission, distribution lines, and associated equipment, such as overcurrent, under-voltage conditions, and potential damage to lines and equipment sufficient to respond appropriately to routine, unusual, and/or emergency situations.
2. Knowledge of communication systems and their use, such as fiber-optic, microwave, dedicated telephones, cellular, satellite, and two-way radios sufficient to provide redundant communication systems and protective relay communications.
3. Knowledge of automatic control procedures, such as tie-line control modes, generator runback, and remedial action schemes sufficient to identify and resolve various issues with electrical systems and maintain system reliability.
4. Knowledge of electrical grid system conditions and available responses that can be controlled from the Energy Control Center (ECC), substations, and/or in the field, such as line relays, loss of generation resources, switching, relay operation, and load transfer sufficient to identify a system issue and determine the appropriate course of action.
5. Knowledge of various relay actions and the procedures used for testing them from the Energy Control Center (ECC), substations, and/or line locations, such as differential, phase comparison, overcurrent, re-energizing, or not re-energizing following the relay action sufficient to restore service and avoid equipment damage.
6. Knowledge of the typical layout, circuit configurations, and capabilities of transmission, sub-transmission, distribution systems, and stations, including electric generators, high voltage transmission systems, 34.5 kilovolt (kV) systems, and 4.8 kilovolt (kV) systems, such as double bus/double breaker, ring bus, maximum current, and voltage limits sufficient to identify, locate, and respond to system conditions, review planned outages, and oversee restoration of service.
7. Knowledge of power generation resources, their capabilities, and the factors considered when calculating their capacity and reserve requirements, including thermal, hydro, and renewable energy, dispatch limitations, timing and operational issues, scheduled outages, weather, humidity, and seasonal loads sufficient to complete a capacity load worksheet and comply with Department and North American Electrical Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards.
8. Knowledge of Department of Water and Power guidelines, standards, and procedures as they relate to load dispatching, such as Issuances of Clearance, Work Authorities, Operating Orders, and Instructions to Load Dispatchers sufficient to prevent injury to Department personnel and the public, identify errors in processes and procedures, and instruct Load Dispatchers and trainees in the correct execution of switching, logging, issuing of Work Authorities, and directing other personnel.
9. Knowledge of North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Standards and Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC) Criteria, such as Communication Standards, Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards, Emergency Operations Procedures, Standards of Conduct, and differences in replacement reserve requirements sufficient to comply with regulatory requirements.

10. Knowledge of interconnected utility systems, processes, and procedures, such as Open Access Same-Time Information System (OASIS), e-tagging, Operational Flow Orders (OFOs), and gas curtailment sufficient to manage and control energy interchange, and ensure adequate energy capacity.
11. Knowledge of load transfer effects on power lines and electrical equipment, such as voltage changes, current changes, and volt-ampere reactive (VAR) flow sufficient to maintain continuity of service, avoid overloads, respond to adverse system conditions, and de-energize electrical circuits and equipment for maintenance.

**28. SUPERVISION** . Ability to assume direct responsibility for all aspects of the performance of a work group, which requires knowledge and/or ability in the areas of:

- Planning and goal setting
- Creating a safe and positive work environment
- Establishing standards and training employees
- Motivating employees and teambuilding
- Performance Management (assigning, monitoring, facilitating, reviewing and evaluating work, and providing feedback)
- Supporting and developing employees through delegation and participation
- Taking disciplinary action including progressive discipline
- Provisions of employees' MOUs and handling grievances
- Legal requirements including EEO, ADA, FLSA, FMLA, and Workers' Compensation provisions
- Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies related to the management of employees
- Administrative Code provisions related to the management of employees
- Budget processes sufficient to request and justify expenditures in a correct and timely manner

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Supervises small workgroup of employees performing the same or highly related work.
- Level 2: Supervises a larger workgroup of employees performing various types of work.
- Level 3: **Supervises employees including provision of coaching and advice to subordinate supervisors.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Plans, assigns, and monitors work progress.
- Trains employees to do work.
- Evaluates work and gives positive and negative feedback.
- Displays knowledge of legal requirements including applicable Federal and State laws, Administrative Code provisions, Civil Service Commission Rules and Policies, and MOU provisions.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to supervise a workgroup in terms of task orientation, interpersonal concerns, and personnel administration.

Superior

Proficiency in supervision sufficient to serve as a resource to others and/or represent department position in a public forum.

### 33. INTERPERSONAL SKILLS . Interacts effectively and courteously with others.

#### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Interact with members of the workgroup, supervision, and/or the public in a cordial, service-oriented manner.
- Level 2: **Interact across department lines and with appointed City officials, and/or members of the public, at times under adversarial circumstances, in a cordial, respectful manner.**
- Level 3: Interact with appointed and elected City officials, department heads, representatives of external organizations, and/or the media in a cordial, effective manner.

#### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Works well with others toward mutual objectives.
- Does not arouse hostility in others.
- %Disagrees without being disagreeable.+
- Elicits acceptance/cooperation from others.
- Affords all individuals respect, regardless of their role or status.
- Effectively addresses concerns of politicians or others who may have their %own agenda.+

#### Performance Levels:

##### Satisfactory

Behaves in a courteous, respectful, cooperative manner toward co-workers, other City employees, and members of the public.

##### Superior

Facilitates positive interpersonal relations within/among workgroups and toward members of the public. Adept at finding similarities and grounds for cooperation/mutual benefit.



**45. ORAL COMMUNICATION** . Communicates orally in a clear, concise, and effective manner.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Exchange specific, job-related information orally with others in the immediate work environment or via telephone and/or radio.
- Level 2: **Obtain/provide/present general and/or job-specific information orally to a variety of others in various situations.**
- Level 3: Obtain/provide/present a diverse array of information orally at varying levels of complexity to a wide range of others across many different situations and circumstances.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Audience clearly understands the intended message.
- Rarely must repeat information in response to questions.
- Refrains from use of unnecessary words, phrases, or jargon.
- Provides a level of detail appropriate to the situation (avoids too much or too little detail).
- Speaks at a level appropriate to the audience in terms of terminology, sentence structure, and simplicity/complexity of ideas expressed.
- Uses words with precision (vocabulary) to convey exact information.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Speaks clearly and audibly, providing the appropriate information and level of detail. Typically conveys the message on the first attempt. Answers questions accurately and directly.

Superior

Speech is direct and to the point. Speaks convincingly and with authority when appropriate. Maintains sensitivity to the audience while providing thorough information with the appropriate level of detail through the use of precise language.

## 47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION . Communicates effectively in writing.

### Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Write notes/e-mails. Completes forms with some open-ended responses (sentences).
- Level 2: **Write letters, articles/reports, and/or detailed descriptions of activities/occurrences.**
- Level 3: Write lengthy reports, instruction manuals, in-depth analyses/reviews of complex issues and/or articles for publication. Reviews the written work of others.

### Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Writing includes the necessary information to convey the intended message.
- Sufficiently few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar to not interfere with the intended message or distract the reader.
- Little editing or re-writing needed to produce a final product.
- Composes materials efficiently.
- Information is presented in a well organized manner.
- Tone and degree of formality are appropriate to the purpose and audience.

### Performance Levels:

#### Satisfactory

Writes material that clearly communicates the necessary information; needs little editing.

#### Superior

Precisely uses words and organizes information in a way that enhances presentation of the message. Virtually no editing needed.

**50. PROCESS IMPROVEMENT** . Initiates changes to improve the manner in which work is done, workflow, or the work product.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Identify and suggest improvements in the work of workgroup and/or at the interface of other workgroups with interrelated functions.
- Level 2: **Audit work processes, work flow, and work product to identify possible improvements; analyze the feasibility of making changes necessary to implement improvements; evaluate the effectiveness of changes made.**
- Level 3: Initiate effort to re-engineer work processes in order to create a system with maximum efficiency, product/service quality, and timeliness.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Notes inefficiencies and unnecessary steps for possible elimination.
- Identifies specific changes that would need to occur to implement improvements.
- Analyzes/evaluates necessary changes for feasibility.
- Discusses with involved staff to obtain feedback.
- Recognizes that a complete change in the way we do business might be the best solution.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Vigilant with respect to identification of opportunities for improvement. Identifies specific steps required to implement feasible changes and ensures they are taken. Evaluates results and makes adjustments.

Superior

Objectively considers the entire system and future conditions when evaluating the potential for improvement. Identifies novel solutions and is creative in determining means of implementing them.