

## Video Department

### Job Titles

Key Video Assist - dept head, runs all video recording/playback gear, main troubleshooting tech, wireless video rigging

Video Assistant- a highly skilled utility that can also operate the recording systems, but also wraps cable, rigs video, trouble shoots

Video Utility- mostly a cable wrangler, cart pusher, and video rigger

### Structure

The key video assist operator is the department head and coordinates all the duties of the department.

### Things a first timer should know

Being proficient and know proper way of wrapping video cables.

Know how to repair damaged video cables.

Know how to test video cables

Have basic understanding of ins and outs of video routing.

Know how to calibrate a high quality HD video monitor

Tech Savvy is a plus

Work quiet around video village monitors as its often where lots of important discussions between Director, Actors and Script Supervisor take place.

Basic knowledge of set etiquette.

### What Should a First Timer Bring?

Be early or on time and bring pretty much standard film set gear such as rain gear, boots, sun glasses, layered clothing, a multi tool like Leatherman or Gerber, gloves if you desire when wrapping cables. A flashlight or headlamp to work at night or in dark equipment cases.

### What Does the Department Do?

Video assist (VA) is a system used in filmmaking which allows filmmakers to view a video version of a take immediately after it is filmed.

Today, video assist is a name of a complex system, consisting of monitors, recorders, video transmitters, video printers, matrix routers and hundreds of feet of HD cables. The video assist crew—the video assist operators—are in charge of moving, operating, and

troubleshooting the whole system which can easily fill a medium-sized truck. Their job is to run cables from all of the several cameras used on the show to a central location—often referred as the video village—where the director, DP, script supervisor, art director and several other crew members sit. When cameras are in unreachable locations, on the move, handheld, or steadicam-mounted, wireless transmitters are often used.

Today, video assist is more complex than ever, and directors are leaning on the HD video image more and more. The job of the VA operator is getting more and more complicated. A few years ago a VA operator needed to know how to start a VCR, plug it into a CRT monitor, and be able to bring it all up the hill. Now operators are editing on their systems, setting up internet streams, setting up complex wireless video systems, troubleshooting electronics, calibrating high quality HD monitors and still bringing it all up the hill.

What kind of unusual equipment is used?

The majority of Key video Assist operators are owner/operators of their very expensive, highly specialized, and customized systems. We use HD DVR recording equipment that records every take of every scene of every day and can play it back to high quality HD monitors at a moments notice after a director yells cut or even 6 weeks later.

Department-Specific Language

What Is a Typical Day Like?

Arrive on time and report to video truck, trailer or wherever your gear is stored while not on set. Once work day starts, push all carts to set and find best location to start setting up video monitor carts for Director and producers. Prep your video cables or rig wireless receivers. Record the day's work and playback as needed, standby to move video villages as camera angles change and we move from Location to location. Wrap location and repack truck or trailer for company move to tomorrow's location. Start all over again.