



JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND OCCUPATIONAL PROFILES

DRILLER HELPER

Before oil companies decide to drill a well in a new location, they usually require information from seismic tests to analyze the underground rock formation and its potential for holding reserves of oil or gas. A great deal of time and money is spent on seismic operations and major decisions are made on the basis of seismic data.

Helpers are inexperienced workers in entry-level positions on seismic crews. After they gain skills and experience, helpers may move to other positions on a crew.

Driller's helpers work under the direction of seismic drillers. In general, they:

- Carry and load explosive charges (under the direct supervision of a licensed blaster)
- Test detonator, tamp shot holes, and test detonators for shorts
- Assist drillers in overall operations
- Report directly to the driller
- Place permanent tags in location of loaded holes

Working Conditions

Driller Helpers may be required to:

- Lift items and carry heavy loads weighing up to 20 kilograms
- Walk long distances through various types of uneven terrain
- Work outdoors in all types of weather conditions
- Travel in small aircraft or helicopters
- Spend extended periods of time away from home, living and working in close contact with a number of people
- Work daily under very wet and muddy conditions in all types of weather

Personal Characteristics

Driller Helpers need the following characteristics:

- The ability to carry heavy loads and walk long distances
- Stamina and flexibility
- The ability to adapt to a number of different environments (mountains, plains)
- The ability to work effectively in a team
- Good organizational skills
- An interest in working outdoors (sometimes in isolated locations) and use various forms of wilderness transportation
- Be physically able to work full days of hard work at a steady pace
- They should enjoy having clear rules and guidelines for their work, and operating and maintaining equipment.

Educational Requirements

Driller Helpers usually are required to have a valid driver's licence. There are no formal, minimum education requirements for entry-level positions on a seismic crew. However, a high school education and an interest in mathematics, physics and geology are definite assets. Employers generally prefer to hire job applicants who have experience with:



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- Manual labour
- Farm equipment
- Mechanical devices
- Heavy equipment
- Electronic equipment.

Preference is also given to applicants that possess safety training related to job duties:

- First Aid/CPR training
- All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) – Canada Safety Council Training and Certificate
- General Oilfield Driver Improvement (GODI)

GWR offers in-house training for certain safety tickets:

- Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) Awareness
- WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System)
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)
- Seasonal Training such as Wildlife Awareness and Cold Weather/Wilderness Awareness

To advance to more senior positions on a seismic crew, work experience or post-secondary training in an engineering technology, electronics or mechanics is a definite asset.