



JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND OCCUPATIONAL PROFILES

FALLER

Seismic line cutters cut and remove trees and other vegetation to clear the way for seismic lines, pipelines or power lines.

Duties

Fallers work on line construction crews. Using chainsaws they cut and remove trees and other vegetation to clear a path for other seismic crews such as surveyors, drillers and helpers. They must follow strict guidelines to limit their environmental impact. For example:

- fire and erosion damage from burning
- disturbance of decomposing material
- destruction of harvestable trees
- Limiting sight lines to protect wildlife.

Fallers operate chainsaws to clear lines for larger equipment to follow. They are responsible for the safe operation and productivity of the line construction crew. In general fallers:

- Use chainsaws to clear trees and undergrowth to construct trails (usually 1.75-3 metres wide).
- Assess the falling area and appraise trees for characteristics (twists, rot and heavy limb growth).
- Apply knowledge of tree characteristics and cutting techniques to control direction of fall.
- Select and clear a proper emergency escape route, communicate falling plan and ensure the active falling area is clear of all workers (must comply with distance standards).
- Clear brush and debris from work area.
- Clear undergrowth, cut saplings and other trees from falling path.
- Remove dangerous trees that could fall into the workplace.
- Work closely with a Q.S.T. if required by client.

Working Conditions

- Crews work outdoors in remote locations.
- They may have to stay in hotels, motels or camps when away from home for extended periods.
- They may be exposed to extreme weather, dirt, dust, mud, noise and fumes.
- Heavy lifting of items weighing up to 20 kilograms often is required.
- To avoid injury, seismic line cutters must wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Seismic line construction crews typically work 10 to 12 hours a day on rotation.
- Work is seasonal and overtime is common, and often expected.

Personal Characteristics

- Fallers need to have the following characteristics:
- Good problem solving and decision making skills
- Mechanical aptitude
- A safety conscious attitude
- The ability to adapt to a number of different environments (mountains, plains)
- An interest in working outdoors (sometimes in isolated locations) and using various forms of wilderness transportation
- The ability to work well as part of a team and clearly understand their role on that team



- An understanding of GPS navigation, and the ability to read maps.

They should enjoy having clear rules and guidelines for their work, being physically active and operating and maintaining equipment.

Educational Requirements

GWR generally prefer to hire job applicants who have a high school diploma, Class 3 driver's licence with Q endorsement and experience with:

- Manual labour (including heavy lifting).
- Outdoor activities (such as camping, bush travel, use of all-terrain or four-wheel-drive vehicles).
- Chainsaws.
- GPS navigation knowledge is an asset.

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 Certification
- ENFORM Chainsaw Proficiency - Level 1, 2 or 3
- General Oilfield Driver Improvement (GODI)
- Powered Mobile Equipment Operator

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 from packer to buckler, and buckler to faller workers must complete the required amount of work experience in addition to the appropriate level of the Chainsaw Faller Competency Program offered at Enform in Calgary and Nisku (near Edmonton).

Advancement to more senior positions generally requires additional work experience or post-secondary training in heavy equipment operation.