

What are the facilities like?

- Facilities vary depending on location, town and province, however, accommodation is provided while the crew is working. Employees will either stay in camps or hotels depending on the location of the job.

Do you drive out to the site?

- 80% of the time you will be required to drive from point of rest (hotel, camp) to the job site - crews have company vehicles that provide transportation for crews to and from the jobsite. 20% you may be staying directly on the worksite, have bus transportation organized or be required to travel in a helicopter to the job site

Do you stay in camps?

- Yes. Camps are set up in remote areas where hotels are unavailable, or location of the camp is more feasible than staying in a hotel. Camps vary depending on the managing company, and location. All meals in camp are included; therefore the daily living allowance of \$40.00/day is not passed out. Camps include washroom facilities, recreation rooms (include exercise equipment, televisions, etc.) laundry, towels & bedding, and open kitchens.



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Careers in Seismic



Observer

Position Name: Observer

Description of Position:

During seismic tests, Observers work in a recording truck and use two-way radios to direct the work of crew members involved in the tests. In some cases, Observers activate the explosives used in tests or direct the work of shooters who activate explosives from a different location. In general, Seismic Observers:

- Ensure that all of the crew's daily activities are planned and executed properly.
- Oversee the entire data collection effort to ensure highest possible data quality.
- Configure the Recording Instrumentation System for each project's requirements.
- Perform daily and monthly instrument tests, and ensure all equipment meets tolerance specifications.
- Troubleshoot problems and repair recording equipment.
- Document recording operations.
- Have the line crew be as efficient as possible, overseeing the production of up to 70 workers including Line Crew Helpers, Trouble Shooters, Shooters and Coordinators.
- Properly coordinate helicopter usage.
- Ensure that safety guidelines and procedures are followed.
- Coordinate action taken for any serious incidents, to ensure safety of injured employee(s).
- A valid driver's license is an asset and may be required by some companies in order to obtain employment. Potential candidates should also be aware that a driver's abstract may be required.
- It should also be noted that some companies will require drug and alcohol testing prior to employment.

Is a post-secondary education required?

- There are no formal, minimum education requirements for the position of observer on a seismic crew. However, having a high school education is always a definite asset. Employers generally prefer to hire job applicants who have experience with:
 - Manual Labour
 - Job's involving heavy lifting
 - A history of physical activity, ie sports
 - Jobs requiring long hours of work
 - Jobs with a field rotation or camp component
 - Class 3 drivers license with Q endorsement

What is the Career Path is there any advancement from this position?

- From the position of Observer an employee may be promoted to the Position of Crew/Party Manager. The Party Manager is responsible for all field operations as well as ensuring that his crew meets financial/production goals set out by the client or head office. All crew members report directly to the Crew Manager, and he has hiring/firing authority over all employees on his crew.

Is there any training provided?

- Initial training for someone new to the industry may include but is not limited to:
 - Company orientations (review of company policies, procedures, expectations etc.)
 - Basic Safety Awareness (introduction to petroleum industry hazards, tasks, safe work procedures, emergency response planning, communication, tools, driving, etc.)
 - WHMIS (awareness training for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System)
 - H2S Aware (awareness training for hydrogen sulphide gases including acceptable working levels, properties of the gas, safe procedures

- for working in around gaseous areas)
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG)
- First Aid/CPR
- General Oilfield Driver Improvement (GODI) (awareness training for operating vehicles 5500 kg GVW and over)
- Seismic Field Operations Supervisor (SFOS)
- Additional Seasonal Training may be included such as:
 - Wildlife Awareness (awareness training for dealing with wildlife- specifically bears in the spring/ summer and fall)
 - Cold Weather Awareness (awareness training for dealing with cold illnesses, clothing, blizzard conditions, appropriate footwear, industry hazards)
 - Additional training on recording instrumentation systems is often a requirement of attaining the position of Observer.
 - Courses in effective management, conflict resolution, effective planning, etc may be required as well.

Hours Worked/Standard Shift Rotation:

- 12- 14 hours per day, seven days a week. Includes travel time to and from the jobsite as well as lunches and breaks
- Time off Rotation varies from 21 days on/4 days off, 24 days on/4 days off, 28 days on/7 days off

What is the range of pay:

- Starting wage for Observers is approximately \$300.00/day.
- Most employers cover all accommodation costs while the employee is working, and a daily living allowance (Hotshot) of \$40.00/day is given to each employee to be used for food. When interviewing with companies it is best to inquire if this benefit is offered.