

## 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



**Shooter / Blaster**

## **Position Name: Shooter/ Blaster**

### **Description of Position:**

Shooters/Blasters organize the shooting equipment used to set off explosions, and control the shoot and the blasting zone. In general, shooters and their helpers:

- Drive and maintain the trucks or ATVs that contain shooting equipment
- Load holes with explosives (when not already loaded by drillers)
- Direct helpers and others in laying electrical cables and connecting explosive charges
- Monitor equipment during the test and ensure that safety precautions are followed
- Report any irregularities in shooting procedures and shot point conditions to the seismic observer.

During seismic tests, shooters are in constant contact with observers. Explosives are connected by the shooter and detonated by the Observer in the Recorder.

- 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?**

- In order to obtain shooter/blaster status, a one day course offered through Enform must be completed. To qualify for this course the employee must meet the following conditions:

- Minimum 18 yrs of age (19 to obtain a blasters permit in the NWT)
- Minimum six months hands-on experience as a seismic blaster or seismic blaster assistant in the past 36 months immediately preceding the date of application
- Ability to communicate effectively in the English language, both orally and in writing
- Current Standard First Aid certificate, or equivalent
- Completion of the prescribed application form for the course



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

- From the position of a Shooter/Blaster, the employee may have the opportunity to advance to Equipment Coordinator if the acceptable level of responsibility and leadership are shown in this position.



### **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)
- 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)



### **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 industry newcomers is approximately \$12.00/hour
- 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.