

What is the Range of Pay?

Starting wage for industry newcomers is approximately \$300/day. Most employers cover all accommodation costs while the employee is working, and a daily living allowance, called 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.

Accommodation and Travel While on Shift

Crews either stay in hotels/motels that are close to the worksite, or if the program is taking place in a remote area where hotels/motels are unavailable, camps may be used. 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 typically include washroom facilities, recreation rooms (include exercise equipment, televisions, etc.) laundry, towels & bedding, and open kitchens.

Most of the time companies will provide transportation of workers from point of rest (hotel/motel or camp) to the worksite; however depending on your roles and responsibilities you may be required to drive yourself from point of rest to the worksite.



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Careers in Seismic



Observer

Position Name: Observer

Description of Position

During a seismic program, Observers work in a recording truck (aka Doghouses) and use two-way radios to direct the work of fellow seismic crew members. In some cases, Observers initiate detonation of the explosives being used, or directs the work of the Blaster who initiates 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 the 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, Blasters 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.

Training Requirements

There are no minimum educational requirements for the position of Observer on a seismic crew; however, a high school education is always a definite asset and is strongly encouraged. Candidates interested in becoming an Observer should note that to acquire Observer status they will first need to gain experience working on a seismic line crew.

Career Path and Advancement from the Position of Faller

From the position of Observer an employee may be promoted to Recording Crew Manager. The Recording Crew Manager is responsible for all field operations as well as ensuring the crew meets financial/production goals set out by the client or head office. All crew members report directly to the Recording Crew Manager.

Is On-The-Job Training Provided?

Initial training for those 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 (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System);
- H2S Aware (awareness training for hydrogen sulphide gases);

- Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG);
- First Aid/CPR;
- General Oilfield Driver Improvement (GODI) (awareness training for operating vehicles 5500kg GVW and over);
- Off Highway Vehicle Training (ATV's, UTV's, snowmobiles).

Additional Seasonal Training may be included such as:

- Wildlife Awareness (awareness training for dealing with wildlife);
- Cold Weather Awareness (awareness training for dealing with cold illnesses, clothing, blizzard conditions, appropriate footwear, industry hazards).

Generally most companies will provide their employees with up-to-date training in order to keep their skills current and up to the industry standard, however the responsibility may lie with the employee or potential employee to obtain some training courses on their own time.

Hours Worked/Standard Shift Rotation

- 12- 14 hours per day, seven days a week (includes travel time to and from the worksite, as well as lunches and breaks;
- Shift rotation varies from 21 days on/4 days off, 24 days on/4 days off, or 28 days on/7 days off.