

What is the Range of Pay?

Effective October 1, 2011 starting wage for industry newcomers is approximately \$12.50/hour. 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



Blaster (Shooter)

Position Name: Blaster (Shooter)

Description of Position

A Blaster ensures the correct location of, and detonation of all pre-loaded explosive charges. Pre-loaded explosives are connected to the seismic recording equipment by the Shooter and then detonated by the Observer in the recorder (aka doghouse). During a seismic program, shooters are in constant contact with the Observers.

In general, Blasters:

- Drive and maintain company vehicles or off highway vehicles used to transport the blasting equipment;
- Monitor blasting equipment during detonation and ensures all company safety precautions are being followed;
- Report any irregularities in shooting procedures and shot hole conditions to the Observer.
- 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

In order to be a certified Shooter, it is industry best practice that the one day Seismic Blasters course offered through Enform be successfully completed. Pre-requisites for

this course are as follows:

- Minimum 18 yrs of age (19 to obtain a blasters permit in the NWT);
- Minimum six (6) months of on-the-job experience as a Shooter or Drillers Helper within the past 36 months immediately preceding the date of application;
- The ability to communicate effectively in the English language, both orally and in writing;
- Current Standard First Aid certificate, or equivalent;
- Completion of the prescribed Seismic Blaster Safety Training application form;

Career Path and Advancement from the Position of Faller

At the company's discretion, opportunities to advance into more senior or supervisory roles (such as Observer or Equipment Coordinator) are available.

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.