

# FINDING

# Work in ...

Informing  
Attracting  
Developing  
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## RIG TECHNICIAN

(Motorhand, Derrickhand, Driller)

### QUICK FACTS

- Entry-level positions start as a floorhand or leasehand.
- Rig Technician positions include Level 1 (Motorhand), Level 2 (Derrickhand), and Level 3 (Driller).
- Apprenticeship/journeyman requirements are in place as of June 2006.
- Expect to pay out approximately \$500 for initial start-up costs (clothing, equipment, lodging).
- Expect very physical hard work for long hours in a variety of weather.
- Employment is mainly seasonal for approximately 8-10 months of the year.
- Operate draw-works & rotary equipment.
- Supervise assembly of drill string.
- Monitor drilling progress.
- Maintain records, train crew, and communicate with rig manager.
- Physical requirements include:
  - Repetitive heavy lifting.
  - Working 12 hours in the outdoors.
  - Being strong physically and emotionally.

### NATURE OF WORK

- *Floorhand or leasehand* positions help to:
  - Set up, tear down, and clean the drilling rig.
  - Put away tools and materials.
  - Dig ditches and drive crew trucks in camp.
  - General housekeeping and cleaning.
  - Helping other crew members.
- *Motorhands (Rig Technician Level 1):*
  - Maintain rig engines, transmissions, heating systems, generators, and hydraulic systems.
- *Derrickhands / Assistant Drillers (Rig Technician Level 2):*
  - Operate and maintain drilling fluid systems and pumps.
  - Mix fluid chemicals and additives.
  - Monitor and record mud flow information.
  - Handle sections of drill assembly.
  - Assist with driller duties.
- *Drillers (Rig Technician Level 3):*
  - Supervise operation of drilling equipment
  - Supervise work and safety of crew
  - Standing for long periods of time.
  - Walking while carrying heavy weight.
  - Working with machinery.
  - Walking on rough, uneven or sloped surfaces.
- Work is full time and mainly seasonal – mostly winter and summer with spring shutdowns.
- It is sometimes slow if experiencing wet weather.
- Year-round employment may be available within some companies.
- Winter work could include working in camps.
- Workers follow rig to various locations in Alberta.
- Work schedules consist of working two weeks and then one week off.
- Depending upon travel time and distance to work, a \$140/day tax-free living allowance is provided.



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- The average hourly wage range in southeastern Alberta for an entry-level position as leasehand or floorhand is about \$21.00/hour.
- Wages increase up to \$39.50 per hour depending upon the level of the Rig Technician position.
- For additional information, visit [www.alis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca) (NOC# 8232.1, 8412.1)

### WHAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR

- A clean valid driver's license.
- Valid safety oilfield tickets (H<sub>2</sub>S Alive, First Aid, CPR, and WHMIS) are mandatory.
- Previous oilfield experience or qualified skills are preferred but not mandatory.
- A strong work ethic and willingness to learn.
- Ability to take orders and follow instructions.
- Coming to work every day and being on time.
- Ability to think and work by yourself.
- Ability work with others within a crew setting.
- Ability to work long hours in various outdoor elements.
- Must provide start-up clothing and equipment such as steel-toe boots, hard hat, gloves and clothing upon hire.

### RELATED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- All oil drilling companies provide on-the-job training within their own companies.
- Hard work, training, and experience provide opportunities to advance into Rig Technician positions such as Motorhand, Derrickhand, and Driller.
- Other opportunities include rig Manager, Consultant, Directional Driller, or Field Supervisor.
- Additional training requirements for advancement may include 1<sup>st</sup> Line Blow Out Prevention and 2<sup>nd</sup> Line Well Control.

- Pre-employment Floorhand training is available through PITS/Enform (NISKU) ([www.enform.ca](http://www.enform.ca)).
- Safety courses are mandatory and continuous.
- Rig Technician apprenticeship classes are available at N.A.I.T. ([www.nait.ca](http://www.nait.ca)), S.A.I.T. ([www.sait.ab.ca](http://www.sait.ab.ca)), and Red Deer College ([www.rdc.ab.ca](http://www.rdc.ab.ca)).
- Visit the **Corporate Education Network** for additional training opportunities specifically in Southeast Alberta ([www.cenetnetwork.ca](http://www.cenetnetwork.ca))

### HOW TO APPLY

- Hiring procedures vary depending on the employer. Generally, job seekers are to submit a resume or complete a company application form.
- Apply in person, by mail or by fax directly to the company office. Applying in person is preferred.
- In some cases, a company application form may be available on-line at the company website. A formal interview will follow.
- Check [www.jobbank.gc.ca](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca) for current job listings in Southeast Alberta.

### POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

- Champion Drilling, Brooks ([www.ensignenergy.com](http://www.ensignenergy.com))
- Excalibur Drilling Ltd. ([www.excaliburdrilling.com](http://www.excaliburdrilling.com))
- Nabors Production Services, Brooks ([www.nabors.com](http://www.nabors.com))
- Quintera Drilling Ltd. ([www.pure-energy.com](http://www.pure-energy.com))
- Technicoil Corporation
- Trailblazer Drilling ([www.savannaenergy.com](http://www.savannaenergy.com))
- Wellco Energy Service, Brooks ([www.wellco.com](http://www.wellco.com))
- White Fox Well Servicing Ltd.