

INFORMATION on the web

A Career

in the

Drilling Industry

Drilling Rig Crews

A drilling rig is run by teams of people called rig crews. Rig crews work in shifts 24/7 and are responsible for the safe, efficient operation of the drilling equipment.

A drilling crew has between 4 and 6 individuals. Typically, 3 to 4 crews are assigned to a rig.

A rig crew has the following positions:

The **Rig Manager** is the senior supervisor on site and is in complete charge of the rig. He is responsible for the rig crews, the equipment and the overall operation. The Rig Manager's direction and leadership keeps the operation running smoothly.

RIG TECHNICIANS The **Driller** monitors and records the progress of the drilling operation and communicates this to the rig manager and the well site supervisor. He also is responsible to develop a well-trained, reliable and safety-conscious crew.

The **Derrickhand** assists the Driller with equipment maintenance and looks after the pumps and mud system. When required, the Derrickhand will climb the derrick (about 25 metres above the rig floor) where he is positioned to guide the pipe into the derrick structure.

The **Motorhand** looks after the engines and other machinery. He works on the rig floor with the Floorhands and is involved in the training and supervision of junior crewmembers.

The **Floorhand** handles the drill pipe on the rig floor. Some rigs will have 2 Floorhands. A Floorhand's responsibilities also include equipment maintenance, mixing mud and chemicals and assisting other crewmembers.

The **Leasehand** performs general labour and maintenance tasks around the rig site, such as helping to dig drainage ditches and to grease equipment. Some rig crews do not have Leasehands. On these crews, the entry-level position is the Floorhand.

Other people will be on site and involved in the drilling operation, but these people are not employed by the drilling contractor.

Location and Hours

The most common work schedules are 12-hour shifts. However, work schedules will vary from contractor to contractor or even from rig to rig! A typical 12-hour shift work schedule might look like this:

First 7 days: 7a.m. – 7p.m.
Second 7 days: 7p.m. – 7 a.m.
Third 7 days: TIME OFF

Most rigs work in western Canada. Alberta's activity is province-wide. Saskatchewan's activity occurs in the central and southern parts of the province, while in B.C., the industry is focused in the northeast. Sometimes, rigs move to the far north or into eastern Canada.

Crews are assigned to a rig. When a rig moves, its crews follow it. When the rig is drilling in remote locations, the contractor provides a camp. A camp includes sleeping quarters, a kitchen, a dining facility, a laundry room and a recreation room.

If the drilling job does not provide a camp, the rig crew is expected to find their own accommodations. The drilling contractor provides each employee with a subsistence allowance to cover living expenses while away from home.

Industry Courses:

www.enform.ca

The Rig Technician trade:

www.caodc.ca/apprentice.htm

www.tradesecrets.org (Alberta)

www.itabc.ca (BC)

www.saskapprenticeship.ca (Sask)

Employment with Drilling Contractors:

www.caodc.ca

Follow the link "Employment"



Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors

800, 540 – 5 Avenue S.W., Calgary, AB

Thank you for sharing your photos:

Akita Drilling Ltd., Chinook Drilling,
Stoneham Drilling Ltd., Nabors Drilling

Questions? Comments?

Email: trades@caodc.ca



Drilling Down: The Career Will Move You UP

Canada's Drilling Industry

Drilling contractors provide oil companies with drilling rigs and crews of people to operate them.

Drilling rigs have become increasingly technical and have both computerized and mechanical equipment. The people who understand, maintain and operate this equipment have developed a unique skill set learned right on the job site.

These individuals typically move (often quickly) to positions of authority and responsibility. They are the backbone to Canada's petroleum industry.

A Career to Grow With

In this industry, you learn the job by doing the job. Everyone starts in the junior position on the rig crew, either as a Leasehand or Floorhand. You advance to more senior positions by proving you do your job well and showing you are a team player.

Drilling contractors recognize the importance of assisting employees to develop these skills and advance their careers. Many senior people in drilling companies started with this industry on a rig crew. And other oil and gas sectors value this hands-on experience as well. A wide range of career options is open to someone with rig experience.

A journeyman certificate now exists in support of these unique skills. The **Rig Technician Trade** provides apprenticeship training for Motorhands, Derrickhands and Drillers. With this standard certification, you will find it easy to communicate to potential employers exactly what your skill background is!

Is This Career For You?

A successful applicant will:

- Be physically fit
- Have a strong work ethic
- Be able to travel to remote locations
- Be comfortable working outdoors in all weather conditions

A reliable vehicle and driver's license is highly recommended. You will be responsible for getting yourself to and from the rig.

All contractors support safe healthy workplaces. Most contractors have drug testing policies in place.

You will be working with heavy equipment and hazardous substances. At the beginning of each shift, you will need to be well-rested, fit and focused!

Getting Started

You do not need much formal training to get started.

You must have:

- H2S Alive (1 day course); and
- First Aid



www.enform.ca

Enform is the petroleum industry training school and offers H2S Alive and First Aid courses.

Enform also offers Pre-Employment Floorhand Training. This 7-day course prepares students to work on a rig. Enform has rig equipment on site to provide hands-on experience in a learning environment. This course also includes the H2S Alive certificate.



The Required Gear

Because you will be working outside and with heavy equipment, you will need the appropriate gear.

Some contractors will sell you these items at a discounted rate. Everything you require can be purchased from a local Work Warehouse store.

Spring/Summer

- Fire Resistant Summer Coveralls (2 Pairs)
- Rain Gear (non-static and chemical resistant)
- 1 CSA Approved Hard Hat
- Several Pairs of Gloves (Green Kings, Petrochiefs, Liners)
- Changes of work clothes and clothes to be worn during time-off
- CSA Approved Steel Toes Boots



Fall/Winter

All of the Spring/Summer Gear plus:

- Fire Resistant Winter Coveralls (1 Pair)
- Winter Gloves and Glove Liners
- Hard Hat Liner/Toque
- Several Layers of Clothes/Long Underwear
- Emergency Kit for your Vehicle

These lists include the basic required items. Individual drilling contractors may require you to have additional gear.

Usually a rig crew is structured as follows:

	Rig Manager		
RIG TECHS	Driller	Driller	Driller
	Derrickhand	Derrickhand	Derrickhand
	Motorhand	Motorhand	Motorhand
	Floorhand	Floorhand	Floorhand
	Leasehand	Leasehand	Leasehand

Drilling rig employees are proud of the job they do and with good reason. It's hard work!

Before getting started, do as much research as possible to decide if this job is a good fit for you!

You will be working up to 12-hour shifts. Breaks are taken when the drilling operation allows for downtime.

You will be expected to remember what needs to be done and the policies and procedures you learned in your training.

You will be an important member of the team! Getting along with co-workers is a big part of doing the job well!

