Career Pathway Spotlight: Discover a Career as a Natural Gas Technician with an Energy Contractor

Discover your career path in the energy industry and learn where your interests will take you. Contractors provide industry-leading energy infrastructure solutions to the energy industry. Explore the meaningful work in which you can immerse yourself, set your sights on what you can learn and the increasing responsibilities that can be yours. See how you will be challenged and what will you accomplish.

START HERE

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED

BENEFICIAL CREDENTIAL
• Energy Industry Fundamentals Certificate

FIELD TECHNICIAN, LABORER, GROUNDPERSON

LEARN MORE/EARN MORE

Educational Opportunities for Advancement

AVERAGE EARNING POTENTIAL: $40,000-$70,000 PER YEAR*

12-14 MONTHS
• On-the-job training
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
WELDER/ FUSER/ PIPEFITTER

12-24 MONTHS
• On-the-job training
• Experience in the position
FOREMAN

6-8 YEARS
• Experience in the position
GENERAL FOREMAN/ SUPERINTENDENT

*Compensation averages should be used as a guide. There are numerous factors that impact actual compensation. These estimates do not include over-time, which can be a sizeable addition to base pay. Years of service and training recommendations should also be used as a guide. Company requirements vary.
Become a Natural Gas Technician

STARTING OFF AS A FIELD TECHNICIAN/LABORER/GROUNDPERSON:

What will you do?
- Provide assistance to crew by providing tools and equipment
- Make work area safe
- Drive equipment to job site

What knowledge/skills/abilities will you need?
- Teamwork
- Drive heavy commercial vehicles
- Lift 75 lbs
- Listen and follow directions
- Come to work on time and prepared
- Be able to stand for long periods of time
- Math skills including algebra, trig, and geometry

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING:

What will you do?
- Understand fundamentals of Alternating Current / Direct Current
- Demonstrate ability to fuse plastic pipe
- Operate backhoes and other trenching equipment
- Identify components and maintenance of valves
- Assemble and secure pipe
- Identify the necessary steps for the manual or remote opening and/or closing of a valve or other equipment
- Use appropriate equipment to locate gas mains and services

What knowledge/skills/abilities will you need?
- Demonstrate skills learned in apprenticeship training on the job
- Dig trenches and make work area safe
- Understand the relationship of physical objects to one another in order to visualize how such objects act together

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR:

What will you do?
- Operate power equipment such as excavators, backhoes, and front-end loaders
- Locate utilities and other buried lines prior to digging
- Inspects and maintains equipment

What knowledge/skills/abilities will you need?
- Define how the various parts of systems interact (e.g., parts of the distribution systems) and diagnose the effect on the system of changes or malfunctions in its parts
- Solve problems involving limited options by applying common sense understandings such as selecting the correct cutting tool or proper gauge of wire for a job
- Listen to and understand customer needs
- Estimate the size, length, or quantity of objects, as in selecting the proper wrench for a bolt, or choose the size of fitting required

WELDER/FUSER/FITTER:

What will you do?
- Prepare trenches for laying pipes
- Lay pipes for gas lines
- Fuse plastic pipe together
- Install and repair both high and low pressure pipe systems
- Install automatic controls used to regulate gas systems
- Install automatic controls used to regular gas systems

What knowledge/skills/abilities will you need?
- Same competencies as the Equipment Operator

FOREMAN:

What will you do?
- Determine schedules and work activities of crew members
- Check for unsafe work conditions
- Communicate effectively with others, including customers, crew members, and supervisors
- Deal with potentially stressful situations

What knowledge/skills/abilities will you need?
- People management
- Communications skills
- Assign priority or sequence to the steps for completing a job
- Coordinate several, competing activities for efficient use of time and material
- Adapt work procedures or priorities in response to changing or unforeseen requirements or conditions

GENERAL FORMAN/SUPERINTENDENT:

What will you do?
- Schedule and oversee work of crews
- Review crew member performance and provide feedback
- Prepare and manage budgets
- Report to management
- Support the development of teamwork

What knowledge/skills/abilities will you need?
- Financial management
- Computer skills for report preparation
- People management

ENERGY INDUSTRY CAREERS OFFER:
- Excellent salaries
- Opportunities for advancement
- Job growth & stability
- Professional development and training
- Great benefits

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