

**JOB TITLE: CRANE OPERATOR**

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY	DAILY ACTIVITIES
<p>Crane operators work on cranes or draglines to lift, move, position and place machinery, equipment or other large objects such as containers, shutter boards, scaffolding, platforms at locations such as construction sites, industrial facilities ship loading docks and railway yards.</p> <p>Pour concrete at bridges and assemble and dismantle crushers with the crane.</p> <p>The machinery varies. You could work on a tower crane (constructing buildings), on a bridge crane (to build or fix a bridge), or on a mobile crane.</p> <p>The job involves using pedals and levers to operate the machinery in response to hand signals from a co-worker or supervisor.</p> <p>You will likely have to drive the crane to a work site and help set it up for the job.</p> <p>Your responsibilities include carrying out routine maintenance, which involves cleaning and lubricating the equipment, checking fluid levels and hydraulic lines, changing the oil and filters and making minor repairs.</p>	<p>Depends on what the schedule is for the day and if the weather permits you to work to work you will conduct the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• check the condition of the ground (e.g. building site) before setting up the crane</li> <li>• place timber blocks or steel plates under the outrigger pads of the crane</li> <li>• check that the crane is level on the outriggers before attempting to lift and place a load</li> <li>• be aware of how much material can be safely hoisted in each load according to the crane's capacity and the weather conditions (e.g. high winds)</li> <li>• make sure that cranes are ready for use by checking controls, instruments and gauges</li> <li>• move the crane and position the hook so that banksman can attach loads, slings, shackles and chains</li> <li>• check crane cabin instruments to make sure that loads hooked on their machines are within safe working limits</li> <li>• observe and follow the signals given by banksman who direct the moving and positioning of the loads</li> <li>• maintain cranes by inspecting them for defects or wear, lubricate ropes and winches, and replace worn cables.</li> </ul>
QUALIFICATION PRE-REQUISITE	CAREER DEVELOPMENT
<p>Matric (Grade 12) is desirable with the new technology, cranes are computerized and therefore the new generation of operators would need to have computer skills and be able to read Signs. I would say a Grade 10 or equivalent qualification would be sufficient.</p> <p>You should have above average mechanical ability, and you must understand the workings of your equipment since you are required to perform maintenance and repair work on your crane. You need to be very responsible and independent.</p> <p>To be a successful crane operator, you must have self-control and be able to keep a cool head in critical situations. You also have to get along with people to be able to work with other members of your crew. You must be able to follow instructions.</p>	<p>You can become multi-skilled and operate other equipment or aim to become a Crushing or Concrete Supervisor/Foreman.</p> 

<p><b>SKILLS MOST USED</b></p> <p>The following important qualities are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• you must be a team player;</li> <li>• have excellent concentration levels;</li> <li>• patience and good relationships with the supervisors or foreman;</li> <li>• you must also be willing and able to travel and work long hours;</li> <li>• enjoy technical and engineering activities;</li> <li>• able to follow verbal instructions;</li> <li>• mechanical aptitude and good coordination;</li> <li>• good eyesight for visual judgment of distances;</li> <li>• comfortable working at heights;</li> <li>• safety-conscious;</li> <li>• able to work as part of a team;</li> <li>• excellent hand-eye coordination to do the job well;</li> <li>• you need good stamina to deal with long hours of repetitive work; and</li> <li>• assembling and disassembling the equipment takes strength and agility.</li> </ul>		<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p> <p>The following are some challenges for Crane Operators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You have to be aware of possible hazards such as power lines;</li> <li>• You know how to get the most out of your equipment without overturning it, causing safety problems, or doing any sort of damage;</li> <li>• Not afraid of heights;</li> <li>• Committed to your job</li> <li>• You can loose or damage your load if the Banksman give the wrong hand sign or if the Rigger has sling the load wrong</li> </ul>
<p><b>JOB SATISFACTION</b></p> <p>Without me operating the crane, the people will take a long time moving loads. I like to work safe as well as to work with people.</p> <p>If I can finish every shift without injuring anybody. If I needed to move a load and I have completed the task in time without any damages.</p> <p>I enjoy my work everyday. I have dismantled &amp; rebuilt 5 crushers in one year and have had no incidents.</p>	<p><b>ADVICE FOR JOB SEEKERS</b></p> <p>You must be self-disciplined and control your emotions</p> <p>Training is the biggest and most important part of the job, due to advancing technology. There are no short cuts in this business. They must have at least a Grade 10, be willing to travel, put in the extra effort, good communication skills with the people around you and have patience.</p> <p><b>WORKING ENVIRONMENT</b></p>	

<p>I am really lucky because in this position you hold other peoples lives in your hands.</p>	<p>Crane operators work for rental companies, construction firms, manufacturers, shipbuilders, cargo-handlers, railways, and mines. You have to move from job site to job site, as you are needed. You may have to live away from home for long periods of time.</p> <p>Crane operators on building and construction sites work in all conditions.</p>
<b>EDUCATION AND TRAINING</b>	<b>LENGTH OF STUDY</b>
<p>Learnership in Crane Operator NQF Level 2 and Advance Crane Operator NQF Level 4.</p>	<p>The completion of crane operator training through a learnership is at least a minimum of 18 months.</p> <p>You need to be certified in order to have employment in this field. A license to operate is required and Crane Drivers must renew this license every two years through an accredited institution i.e. Materials Handling Institute.</p>

ED FISCHER



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