



Orientation Information

Required Gear

Depending on the time of year you will need different types of gear. The following is a basic minimum and you may be required to take additional gear as requested by our customers. Any special requirements will be communicated to you by the Crew Coordinator when you are dispatched to a rig.

Winter Gear

- CSA Approved Steel Toe Winter Boots with Bama Socks
- Coveralls (Savanna Supplied)
- CSA Approved Hard Hat (Savanna Supplied)
- Fire Retardant Approved Hard Hat Liner
- 2-3 Fire Retardant Neck Warmers
- 1 Bag of Green King Gloves
- 2 Pair Rubber Gloves (non-banded at wrist) with Liners
- Wool Socks
- Fire Retardant Rain Gear (pants and jacket)
- Warm under coverall clothing (cotton blends, NO polyester, NO hoodies)
- Safety Glasses (Savanna Supplied)
- Duffle Bag

Summer Gear

- CSA approved Dunlop Steel Toe Rubber Boots with Bama Socks
- CSA approved Rubber Steel Toe Boots
- Coveralls (Savanna Supplied)
- 1 bag of Green King Gloves
- 2 Pair of Rubber Gloves (non-banded at wrists) with Liners
- Cotton Socks
- Fire Retardant Rain Gear (pants and jacket)
- Under coverall clothing (cotton blends, NO polyester, NO hoodies)
- Safety Glasses (Savanna Supplied)
- Duffle Bag

Working Conditions

- Outside, even in very cold, hot or wet weather
- Work 4 to 12 hour shifts for up to 21 consecutive days
- Hard physical labour throughout entire shift
- Travel long distances even in poor weather and road conditions
- Work both days and nights
- Work in dirty conditions
- Work around very loud equipment
- Work with a variety of 3rd party services on location
- Work in remote locations (no cell service)



Orientation Information

Throughout a regular work day entry levels positions can expect to perform any or all of these listed duties plus additional tasks as required.

- Clean and maintain rig floor
- Clean and maintain the rig and its equipment
- Assist other crew members on the rig floor
- Assist in 'rigging up' and 'rigging out'
- Keeping rig stairs free of debris
- Cleaning the doghouse
- Cleaning the tool house
- Using tongs to make and break joints of pipe
- Handling pipe/tubing/rods
- Putting tools away
- Following all company safety regulations
- Cleaning bathroom facilities
- Participate in Pre-Job Safety Meetings
- Prepare Near Miss documentation
- Review Job Hazard Analysis
- Prepare Hazard ID's

What to bring on your first day:

- ALL required gear listed above.
- 2 changes of work clothes
- Under overall clothing (better to have too much than to be cold, hot or wet for an entire shift)
- Safety Tickets
- Food (plan for hard physical activity for 12 hours)
- Bottled water
- Granola Bars or Energy Bars (to be carried in your pocket and eaten on the rig)
- Sunscreen, Bug Spray

Spring Break Up

Work in the oil and gas industry is seasonal work. This is due to the weight of the rigs and their equipment and the remote locations of the wells. These locations are only accessible when ground conditions can handle heavy loads. Wells are typically drilled and serviced in the winter when the ground is frozen solid or in the summer when the ground has thawed and dried sufficiently. During the spring and fall when the ground is in a transitional state, it is too soft to move equipment on and is easily damaged. This is the reason Provincial Governments implement 'road bans' prohibiting heavy loads to protect damage to the ground. During this time period, many rigs have to be shut down and their crews sent home. Be prepared to be off for anywhere from 6 to 12 weeks without pay during this time. Please keep in mind that this is only a guideline, depending on the duration of the wet weather, or if the work is on mature pad wells.



Orientation Information

Service Rig Specific Information

As a member of a service rig crew, most often, you will be meeting the driller who will transport the crew to location. You are responsible for getting yourself to the meeting point. Lateness is NOT tolerated as your lateness sets the entire job behind schedule. Make sure the change of clothes you bring with you includes a change of footwear for returning back in driller's truck.

When location is near a municipality, non-camp conditions usually apply, and your hotel will be supplied. Living allowances are paid out on your pay check.

When staying out of town you will need to ensure you bring the following items:

- Enough clothing to last entire shift and enough money to pay for daily food
- Cold and Flu remedies
- Snacks
- Phone Charger
- Toiletries (e.g. toothbrush, tooth paste, razor, etc.)

It is quite common for the crew to be working a local job where you will return home at night, however it can be just as common for the crew to be scheduled to work out of town for an indefinite period. Being adaptable and having an accepting support system at home is extremely helpful in making well servicing a successful career.

As service rigs do not work on set schedules you will be required to work when there is work. Once assigned to a rig the expectation is that you will be available on short notice once a job order comes in. If you will be unavailable, you must give a minimum of 2 weeks' notice unless it is an emergency.

Hours of Service regulations mean you have to 're-set' every 21 days. If working continuously you will get 3 days off every 21 days worked.

Types of Service Rigs

Single	Small derrick that may or may not telescope and can only pull one joint at a time. Used for shallow wells.
Double	Larger unit, taller derricks that telescope up. Can pull two joints at a time. Used for deeper wells.
Skidded	Units without wheels that are trucked.

Rig Terminology for Greenhands

Accumulator	Stores energy to operate the BOP system.
Air Slips	Device used for holding PIPE and preventing it from falling down the hole.
Air Trailer	Used when working on SOUR wells. Supplies breathing air for the crew.
Annular Preventer	Part of the BOP: also called a BAG.
Annulus	The space between the CASING and the TUBING where fluid can flow.
Babbit	A metal that is heated with a tiger torch, melted and poured to secure a cable in a rope socket.



Orientation Information

Belly Box	Storage box on the underside of the rig, used to store tools etc.
Blocks (travelling)	The pulley system used to pull pipe.
Blowout	An uncontrolled release of well gas or fluid.
BOP	Blowout preventer.
Box end / Pin end	The ends of the pipe. Box end is the female or collar end. Pin end is the male or threaded end.
Catwalk	Deck used to work with pipe and run the SKATE

Cable Cutters	Tool used to cut cable.
Cellar	Place under the rig floor where the BOP is stored. Also referred to as substructure.
Chicksan	Flexible section of PIPE with one or more swivels: used to make pump line more flexible and change direction.
Coiled Tubing	A continuous, joint less hollow steel cylinder that is stored on a reel and can be uncoiled or coiled repeatedly as required.
Critical Sour	A sour gas well that has the potential to release unsafe levels of hydrogen sulphide.
Crown	The top of the derrick where the sheaves are attached.
Die	Toothed portion of SLIPS or TONGS that grip/hold pipe.
Diving Board	The center part of the MONKEY BOARD where the DERRICKHAND stands.
Dog House (WS)	Change room, rig manager's office: contains light plant and ACCUMULATOR.
Dognut	Bowl-shaped object that is attached to the last piece of TUBING and fed down through the BOP into the casing bowl where it seals the wellhead. Also known as a TUBING HANGER.
Drift	A heavy metal plug that is slid through a JOINT before it is run in the HOLE to make sure there are no crimps or bends.
Driller's Side	The side of the rig that the driller's pad is on.
Drawworks	Reels the drill line in and out.
Drum	Large spool on DRAWWORKS for spooling and unspooling drill line.
Elevator	A hinged mechanism that is closed around the tubing so that it can be lowered or lifted into the well.
Fingers	Part of the MONKEYBOARD where stands of TUBING are racked and secured when running in and pulling out of the HOLE.
Flarestack	Burns unwanted gas from the well.
Frac	Stimulates the well. Fluids and sand are pumped under high pressure down the well, causing the formation to fracture. The sand holds the fractures open and allows fluid or gas to flow through it. Improves fluid flow.
Green Kings	Cloth gloves. Usually green but can also be orange.
Hammer Wrench	A box end wrench with a heavy metal end that can be hammered.
Hole	Oil or gas well.
Horse Cock (WS)	Device used for lifting objects. Looks like what it is called.
Hydrostatic Pressure	The normal, predicted pressure for a given depth, or the pressure exerted per unit area by a column of freshwater from sea level to a given depth.
Joint	One piece of tubing.
Junk Box	Trailer or skid used to carry rig equipment (BOP, tongs, elevators etc.).



Orientation Information

Kelly Hose	A large diameter, high pressure flexible line used to connect the standpipe to the swivel. Permits the kelly (and, in turn, the drillstring) to be raised or lowered while drilling fluid is pumped through the drillstring.
Kick	An unexpected flow of fluid into the well bore.
Landing Joint	A section of pipe that threads into the top of the DOUGHNUT and extends above the BOP. Used to ensure the DOUGHNUT seats in the casing bowl properly.
Line Pipe	Sectional pipe that is run from the rig pump to the wellhead. One end is threaded and the other has a WING HALF / HAMMER UNION.
Lubricator	A heavy-walled section of pipe placed on top of the wellhead when SWABBING or lowering tools into the HOLE that will be exposed to pressure. Acts like a gate between well pressure and the atmosphere.
Monkey Board	Platform above the working floor where TUBING is racked when tripping in/out. Where the derrickhand works. Also known as a tubing board.
Mud Can	A piece of equipment used when taking sections of TUBING apart that have fluid in them to prevent it from splashing on the rig floor.
Nipple	A short piece of pipe that is used to make up a fitting.
Nipple Up	Install a BOP stack on a wellhead.
Nipple Down	Remove a BOP stack from a wellhead.
Nite Cap	Valve and ball plug, with a fitting for a pressure gauge, placed on top of the well to close it in.
Off Driller's Side	The side of the rig that the driller's pad is <i>not</i> on. Also known as the LADIES' SIDE.
Pack Off	To plug or hydraulically isolate a well bore, either with a sealing device (packer) or fluid.
Perforate	To run a wireline in the well with a 'gun' that contains explosive charges to create holes in the casing.
Pipe	Another name for TUBING.
Pipe Dope	Material used to lubricate the threads of TUBING before a connection is made.
Pony Rod	A short section of rod (up to 10 ft.) used to fine tune the depth of a rod string in the well.
Pump Jack	Moves RODS up and down to operate a downhole pump in a well.
Pup Joint	A short piece of TUBING used to fine tune the placement of TUBING in a well or lined from the pump to the wellhead.
Raddigan	A tool that seals around the ROD to prevent fluid leaking from the well.
Regan	A tool used for holding onto a section of ROD to prevent it from falling into the HOLE. Similar to, but smaller than, a RADDIGAN.
Rig Beam	Heavy steel beam that runs crosswise under the rig to support it when it is rigged in.
Rig In	To spot a rig and set it up so that a well can be worked on.
Rig Out	To prepare a rig for travel after a well has been worked on.
Rig Rider	Escape buggy positioned at the MONKEYBOARD for derrickhands' emergency evacuation. Also known as ESCAPE BUGGY.
Rig Tank	Holds fluid that is being pumped or circulated in the well while it is being worked on. Can also be called MUD TANK.



Orientation Information

Rod	Sections of steel bars used to drive pumps and other downhole equipment. Also known as a SUCKER ROD.
Rod Basket	Platform above the MONKEYBOARD where rods are hung and the derrickhand works when running/pulling rods.
Rod Elevator	Device used to raise and lower ROD: similar to TUBING ELEVATOR but smaller.
Rod Table	Flat surface that sits on top of a RADDIGAN: holds ELEVATOR, tools etc. when running rods.
Rod Tongs	Similar to TUBING TONGS, but smaller and used when running rods.
Rod Transfer	An assembly used to move RODS to and from the ELEVATORS.
Rod Wrenches	Tools used to connect/disconnect sections of ROD as they are run in and out of the hole.
SABA	Supplied Air Breathing Apparatus: used with air trailer.
Sandline	A long cable used when SWABBING or for raising and lowering the TONGS.
Saverhead	Top portion of a swab LUBRICATOR: rubbers are hydraulically compressed around the SANDLINE to prevent fluid in the well from escaping.
SCBA	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
Self-Retracting Lifeline	Fall arrest device that is anchored at the CROWN and used when climbing on the ladder of the derrick to the MONKEYBOARD or ROD BASKET.
Sheaves	Grooved wheels in a pulley block.
Sinker Bar	Pieces of metal rod used to weigh down the cable, to help lower it down the hole.
Skate	A hydraulic device in the center of the catwalk used to push pipe up V-DOOR
Slip and Cut	To replace a section of cable as a part of regular maintenance. SANDLINE or drill-line.
Slop 'Snot' Hose	A hose that is attached to the PACK OFF assembly, which funnels fluid that is stripped off the cable as it is run out of the HOLE into a slop bucket.
Snipe	A length of pipe that is slid over the handle of a tool (pipe wrench) to create more leverage.
Sour	Contains H ₂ S (i.e. hydrogen sulphide).
Sweet	Contains no H ₂ S.
Stabbing Valve	Also called a TI or TIW. A control valve that is installed in the STUMP in case of an emergency and at any time there is no-one on the drill floor.
Stabbing Valve Wrench	A tool that looks like a big Allen key: used to open and close a STABBING VALVE.
Stripping Rubber	A sealing element. Also known as a pipe wiper.
Stand	Two or more JOINTS threaded together.
Stud	A short section of ROD used to bolt two flanges together.
Stump	Section of PIPE or ROD sticking up above the drill floor.
Substructure	A structure that is used on some larger rig to increase the floor area and enclose the BOP.
Swabbing	A technique to reduce fluid levels in a well or bring it into production. A swabbing tool string is made of a weighted bar and swab cup assembly that is run in the well on the SANDLINE. When the assembly is retrieved, the swab cups seal against the tubing wall and carry the fluids to the surface.



Orientation Information

Swedge	A device for connecting two pieces of TUBING of different diameters or threads.
Tag Line	A line used when moving objects in the air to guide and maintain control while staying clear.
Tally	To measure each JOINT of TUBING, adding up the measurements of the JOINTS, to determine the length of the string.
Tally Tape	Tape measure used to measure TUBING as it is TRIPPED in and out of the hole.
Thread Protector	A cap plastic cap that goes on either the threaded or box end of the pipe.
Tongs	Hydraulic equipment used to make and break connections of TUBING as it is TRIPPED in and out of the HOLE.
Toolpush	Another name for a Rig Manager
Tour Ticket/Sheet	(Pronounced 'tower'). Form where the daily report is documented, and costs are recorded.
Tight Hole	A well where information is kept secret.
Tubing	Another name for PIPE.
Tubing Elevator	A device for lifting and lowering TUBING so that it can be run in and out of the hole.
Tubing Hanger	Also known as a DOGNUT.
V-Door	A ramp used to guide pipe up to the rig floor.
Want List	A list of tools and supplies that are needed.
Weight Indicator	A device located on the drill line reads how much the drill string weighs.
Wellbore	A hole drilled or bored into the earth, usually cased with metal pipe, for the production of gas or oil.
Wellhead	Device for controlling the flow of gas or oil from the well to the TUBING or ANNULUS.
400 bbl Tank	A large stand up tank used to hold fluids.

Common Abbreviations

SDFN	Shut Down For Night.
RIH	Run In Hole.
POOH	Pull Out Of Hole.
Csg	Casing.
Tbg	Tubing (pipe).
p/u	Pick Up.
SRL	Self-Retracting Lifeline.
MPa	Measurement of Pressure (i.e. megapascal).
KPa	Measurement of Pressure (i.e. kilopascal).
WOO	Waiting on Orders
WOW	Waiting on Weather
WOC	Waiting on Cement
BHA	Bottom Hole Assembly