

Engineering Equipment Operator (WG-10)

Major Duties

An Engineering Equipment Operator (WG-10) run heavy construction (wheeled or crawler type). The equipment is used to move earth for building roads, ditches, or construction sites for recreation facilities. The Engineering Equipment Operator moves earth and rock, piles brush, and pulls tree planting equipment. This can be dangerous work because is it sometimes done on steep slopes or in the mountains.

The Engineering Equipment Operator also performs a preventive maintenance and makes minor repairs to the equipment Major mechanical problems must be reported to the supervisor. Other duties include:

- Servicing equipment (lubrication, changing oil, air filters, etc.)
- Inspecting equipment
- Maintaining records on the equipment (e.g. service records)
- Grading road surfaces
- Adjusting equipment attachments to meet changing construction conditions
- Preparing schedules for maintenance of recreation facilities

An Engineering Equipment Operator's job requires good depth perception and eyesight. They need to be able to concentrate on the job at hand. They must know what types of equipment to use for the specific jobs. An Engineering Equipment Operator works outside in many different conditions (cold, wet, hot weather). They may work on hills, rough, and uneven land. The job can involve long periods of sitting at the wheel exposed to noise, vibration, constant jerking, and jolting, and potential injury

A person at this level may also supervise other employees (e.g., monitor employee performance, conduct performance appraisals, develop training plans, formulate budgets, coordinate staff efforts, etc.).

A Typical Day

John will spend the entire day behind the wheel of a road grader. After getting out to the construction site, John does some minor servicing and performs a visual inspection of the equipment. Then, he starts the grader and is off down a rough road reshaping its surface

After four hours at the wheel, John will take a 30 minute break before getting back on the road grader. John has been working on road construction for the Forest Service for over 18 years, and he likes being outdoors and working on his own.

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Knowledge and Education

A college degree is not required for this job. Many technical and vocational schools offer programs that train students to become heavy equipment operators.

Career Path

Two jobs that lead to becoming an Engineering Equipment Operator (WG-10) are:

- **Motor Vehicle Operator (WG-7)** – Operates vans, light trucks, and small busses.
- **Engineering Equipment Operator (WG-8)** – operates construction equipment such as graders, tractors, front end loaders, and backhoes, to move earth as directed by supervisors