

# HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

## **JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

Employees in this classification perform skilled physical labor operating heavy equipment in maintaining and repairing roads and drainage and controlling vegetation of the County roadways. Employees are expected to perform job duties outdoors in all types of inclement weather.

## **CLASSIFICATION DISTINCTIONS**

The equipment assigned to employees at this level distinguishes the classification from the Maintenance Specialist because of its functional complexity and difficulty of operation. The equipment is operated with a minimum of supervision and frequently requires the use of independent judgment to insure the safe operation of equipment and efficient accomplishment of work. Work may be reviewed while in progress or upon completion by the job Crew Chief.

## **KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Employees within this classification are assigned to one of the following pieces of equipment:

- **Caterpillar Backhoe (track-based backhoe used for off street jobs) and Drott Backhoe (wheel-based backhoe used for on street jobs):** Operate multiple backhoe controls to manipulate the boom and excavate dirt or other materials, scoop and clear ditches, and rip asphalt. Secure culverts and manholes to the boom bucket using cables and, operating backhoe controls, place in excavated trenches. May also cut grade, clear brush and widen roads. Considerable skill must be applied in the operation of the backhoe to avoid power lines, underground cable and other workers, and to assure adherence to designated grade or other specifications.
- **Grader:** Simultaneously drive hinged grader while manipulating controls for blade angle and height. Operate grader to grade roads, finish grading, spread asphalt, plow snow, clear ditches, and cut slopes and shoulders. While grading, the operator must insure adequate clearance for the equipment, and continuously insure appropriate blade action. Operator performs routine maintenance on the grader including changing the blade as necessary.
- **Track-based Loader and Dozer:** Manipulate scoop controls while driving loader to move materials, load trucks, push brush and back fill. Perform initial road construction by removing major obstructions and scraping surface clean.
- **Athey Loader:** Operator drives loader aligning rotary scooper with debris on the road. Debris dumps from scoops to conveyor belt on loader which must continually be monitored.

The operator must pace the speed of the loader to consider the 10 yard truck moving in reverse behind the loader and receiving debris from the belt, as well as the grader or other equipment which may be ahead. Operator performs routine maintenance on the equipment and may replace minor parts and make belt of scoop adjustments as needed.

- ***Power Brush Cutter:*** Operator drives the high powered rotary brush cutter along the road manipulating a high multi-hinged mechanical arm which extends the blades to the roadside. Operator controls the arm, directing it toward the brush needed to be cut. Considerable caution must be exercised to prevent cutting utility lines, mailboxes, fences, or features on private property.

When not operating the specifically assigned equipment Heavy Equipment Operators may be required to perform any of the duties within the Maintenance Worker job series (Maintenance Worker and Specialist), provided they have been satisfactorily trained on the applicable equipment. The contents of the three descriptions are therefore applicable to the Heavy Equipment Operator and are considered to be incorporated within this description.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Education and Experience:**

- Successful completion and certification of training in the operation of the specific assigned equipment, and;
- Three years' experience in roads maintenance and the operation of various vehicles and equipment, at least one of which must be at the Maintenance Worker level, and;
- Must have or be able to obtain at the time of appointment all licenses required for operation of designated equipment, including a valid motor vehicle operator's license.

**Knowledge of:** the operation of the assigned equipment in a safe and efficient manner; techniques and methods of roadway maintenance and repair; mechanical aspects of assigned equipment sufficient to provide routine maintenance and minor repair; etc.

**Ability to:** apply safety standards and procedures in the operation of equipment and performance of tasks; work effectively as a part of a team and to identify job specific work procedures; maintain physical agility and stamina required to operate equipment and perform job functions in all types of weather; etc.