

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR, SPECIALIST

EST: XX.23

DEFINITION: Under general direction, performs highly skilled work operating heavy equipment in the maintenance and construction of roads, flood control, waste management, and other public works facilities; responsible for training and evaluating staff in a variety of areas related to heavy equipment operation, leads staff as needed; performs related duties as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: This class is distinguished from Heavy Equipment Operator by the responsibility of serving as a highly skilled expert on a variety of heavy equipment, working on any department utilized heavy equipment across divisions, the responsibility for training staff on the use and operation of heavy construction type equipment on a regular basis, and determining appropriate equipment usage for construction projects.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

1. Train staff on the safe and effective use and operation of heavy equipment, which may also include Department of Transportation (DOT) authorized training for staff who are obtaining a California Commercial Class A driver's license.
2. Serve as a highly skilled expert on a variety heavy equipment.
3. Determine training methods and develop training plans and practical exams for the safe and effective use of a variety of heavy equipment.
4. Cross-train staff who use heavy equipment across divisions in order to establish consistent and safe operation practices.
5. Determine how to utilize available equipment for specific projects/tasks.
6. Log training hours and keep accurate records.
7. Coordinate with supervisors and managers to coordinate cross-divisional training and to report on training progression/needs.
8. Coordinate with contractors on aspects of construction work.
9. Coordinate with utility companies on Underground Service Alerts prior to excavation work.
10. Communicate with the public about work being done when construction work is near private property.
11. Perform the duties of Heavy Equipment Operator as described below at a highly skilled level and performs related duties as assigned.

Operates heavy construction equipment including, but not limited to, motor graders, loaders, bulldozers, excavators, scrapers, cranes, steel rollers and chip spreaders on various land-fill, road and flood control projects; performs minor maintenance and repair of equipment; and may act as lead worker over maintenance crews. Specific duties include assignments listed below:

Road Maintenance: Cuts, slopes and grades roadbeds and shoulders; constructs and maintains roads and berms; clears rock and mud slides from roadways; excavates roadways and trenches; spreads sand, gravel, base, soil and hot asphalt; compacts construction material; and performs other road maintenance construction operations.

Flood Control Maintenance: Cuts, slopes, and grades flood control channel beds and hillsides; constructs and maintains creek beds and dams; clears rock and mud slides from flood control channels; spreads and compacts constructions material; and performs other flood control maintenance and construction operations.

Solid Waste Disposal: Cuts, slopes, and grades hillsides and solid waste landfill sites; fills, packs, and levels refuse to established grade; and may operate diesel tractor-trailer combination on an intermittent basis.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

- 1) Three years of experience in the operation of heavy construction equipment; or,
- 2) Two years of experience performing duties equivalent to the class of Heavy Equipment Operator with Santa Barbara County, including the operation of heavy construction equipment; or,
- 3) A combination of training, education, and experience that is equivalent to one of the employment standards listed above and that provides the required knowledge and abilities.

Possession of a valid California Class A Driver's License is required for most positions. Those positions assigned to off-road equipment operations may require a valid California Class C Driver's License.

Appointees to those positions requiring a Class A license will be subject to mandatory testing for drugs prior to beginning work; once on the job, incumbents will be subject to mandatory testing for drugs and/or alcohol on a random, reasonable suspicion, post-accident, return-to-duty, and follow-up basis.

Knowledge of: mechanical operation of various types of heavy diesel and gas powered construction equipment; heavy construction practices; safety practices related to the operation of heavy equipment; methods and practices of training others in the safe and effective use of heavy equipment; practices of equipment allocation for a variety of construction projects; the American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Codes for temporary marking of underground utilities; and record keeping practices.

Ability to: train staff on the safe and effective use of heavy equipment; develop training methods; evaluate equipment operation competency; maintain accurate records; allocate the appropriate equipment for projects; operate, maintain and service a variety of equipment; learn and apply departmental procedures; follow written and oral instructions; communicate with staff, management, and the public in a professional and effective manner; and establish and maintain effective working relationships.