

Logging Equipment Operator



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Forestry Center



High School Courses

- Mechanics/Small Engines
- Diesel Mechanics
- Forestry
- Business
- Communication



Education/Training

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Optional 2-year degree in forestry
- Some companies require a Class A Commercial Driver's License, Heavy Equipment Operator training certificate



Responsibilities

- Operate heavy equipment to remove timber or logs
- Inspect and maintain equipment
- Follow directions and use navigational maps to arrive at job sites
- Load and stack timber
- Maintain roads used for logging
- Be dependable and report to work consistently



Skills

- Drive and repair heavy machinery
- Communicate and listen effectively
- Pay attention to detail
- Collaborate with others
- Problem solve
- Correctly identify trees



Abilities/Personality

- Strong, can lift 50 pounds and push/pull 100 pounds
- Able to get in and out of tall equipment
- Good vision, hand-eye coordination and depth perception
- Dependable



Work Environment

Logging equipment operators work outside in all seasons. They must be prepared to work in changing conditions and over a multitude of terrains. Logging equipment operators use personal protective equipment to protect themselves from loud noises, gas fumes, and sawdust. Logging equipment operators often travel to job sites that may require overnight stays.

Job Description

Logging equipment operators run, maintain, and inspect heavy equipment designed to fell, sort, and load logs. This equipment includes cut-to-length harvesting systems, fellers, bunchers, loaders, dozers and graders. While the primary task of logging equipment operators is to harvest trees, they also assess terrain for efficient and safe navigation, load trucks, trim loaded trailers, and more. Logging equipment operators need to be skillful and efficient at handling machinery.

Salary Range

