

SURVEY INSTRUMENT OPERATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Instrument Operator

Department: Survey

Supervisor: Field Supervisor/Party Chief

Job Summary

The Survey Instrument Operator plays a key role in field surveying operations by operating survey instruments, collecting accurate field data, and supporting the Party Chief in executing a wide range of survey tasks. This position requires a working knowledge of surveying equipment and procedures and contributes directly to the quality, efficiency, and safety of fieldwork.

Key Responsibilities

Field Data Collection & Equipment Operation

- Operate survey instruments including total stations, GPS/GNSS receivers, data collectors, and levels to collect accurate field data.
- Assist the Party Chief with boundary, topographic, and construction stakeout surveys.
- Perform basic field calculations and ensure proper data collection procedures are followed.
- Maintain clear, accurate field notes, sketches, and electronic data.

Construction Stakeout & Survey Support

- Assist with layout of construction features including utilities, roadways, structures, and site improvements.
- Set stakes, hubs, and markers in accordance with project plans and specifications.
- Interpret plans, drawings, and field instructions to support accurate layout and measurements.

Equipment & Site Management

- Perform daily setup, calibration, and maintenance of survey equipment.
- Ensure proper handling, storage, and transport of instruments and supplies.
- Maintain survey vehicles, equipment inventory, and field supplies.

Team Collaboration

- Work closely with the Party Chief and survey crew to support daily field operations.
- Provide direction to Rodmen as needed and assist in coordinating efficient workflow.
- Support multiple crews as needed based on workload and project demands.

Qualifications

- High school diploma or equivalent required.
- 1–3 years of surveying experience preferred, or prior experience as a Survey Rodman.
- Working knowledge of standard survey equipment, procedures, and field operations.
- Ability to read and interpret plans, maps, and construction drawings.
- Must be comfortable working outdoors in varying weather conditions.



Advancement Potential

This role is a key step toward becoming a Party Chief. MSA supports career development through on-the-job training, mentorship, and opportunities to gain technical skills and professional certifications.

Essential Skills

- **Technical Competency:** Ability to operate survey instruments and collect accurate data.
- **Attention to Detail:** Ensures precision in measurements, notes, and layout.
- **Reliability:** Consistent attendance and dependable performance in the field.
- **Communication:** Works effectively with crew members and supervisors.
- **Professionalism:** Represents MSA positively in client and public environments.
- **Valid REAL ID–Compliant Driver’s License:** Required.

Physical Requirements

- Ability to work outdoors in a wide range of environmental conditions.
- Ability to lift and carry equipment weighing up to approximately 50 lbs.
- Ability to traverse uneven terrain, including wooded and construction sites.

Travel Requirements

- Travel is primarily local during business hours.
- Occasional overnight or out-of-area travel may be required depending on project needs.

Guaranteed Hours

MSA guarantees **40 hours of pay each week, rain or shine**, ensuring schedule stability even during inclement weather or field disruptions.

Work Authorization / Employment Eligibility

Applicants must be authorized to work in the United States. MSA participates in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify system to confirm employment eligibility.

AAP / EEO Statement

MSA is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, age, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran status, or any other classification protected by law.

Status

Full-Time, Hourly (Non-Exempt) Position

Special Requirements

None