EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I

JOB DESCRIPTION

Classification Responsibilities: An Equipment Operator I is the entry-level class in the Equipment Operator series and is responsible for the safe, efficient operation and care of construction or solid waste equipment with limited- to moderate-complexity. Incumbents perform a variety of tasks involved in one of the following: collection, transportation, and disposal of refuse and recyclables; or maintenance and repair of City streets, storm drainage systems, parkways, and rights-of-way. Work requires considerable skill in order to manipulate equipment associated with each assignment, such as backhoes (fine grading), forklifts, trenching machines, street sweepers, slurry trucks, front-end loaders, tractors/gannons, a truck with a trailer, a stake body, bin truck with a trailer, and heavy refuse equipment such as a rear loader in the collection, transportation, and disposal of refuse and recyclables; self-propelled herbicide spray machines, or equivalent equipment. Allocation to this class establishes equipment operation as the primary function of the position. However, when not operating equipment, an employee in this class is expected to take the initiative in assisting in the manual and technical aspects of the construction, maintenance, and repair activities. These assignments may involve duties such as public contact, work in close proximity to heavy traffic and underground utility lines, exposure to hazardous chemicals, possible injury as a result of working around trash and debris, confined space entry, and heavy physical exertion under all weather conditions. Employees in this class are required to use appropriate safety equipment and follow safety procedures in performing assignments. Duties require initiative and independent judgment in the care and operation of construction or solid waste equipment, as well as mechanical aptitude and skillful coordination of eye, hand, and foot movements. Employees have responsibility for the safety of coworkers while equipment operation is being performed. This class is subject to frequent emergency call-out and incumbents must be willing to work scheduled stand-by and over-time on nights, weekends, and holidays, as required. This class is responsible for performing related duties as required.

Solid Waste Assignment: An Equipment Operator I assigned to Solid Waste Management operates equipment such as a pick-up truck, a stake body truck, or a bin truck with or without trailer most of the time, as well as, heavy refuse equipment such as a rear loader some of the time. The Equipment Operator I frequently participates in loading and unloading vehicles including the loading of a rear loading packer truck. Work is normally performed without immediate supervision, and is often checked in terms of the care exercised in driving; the promptness with which assigned routes are completed; and the effectiveness with which loading, transporting, unloading, and related functions are conducted.

Transportation Assignment: An Equipment Operator I assigned to Transportation operates equipment such as street sweepers, slurry trucks, front-end loaders, tractors/gannons, and a truck with a trailer. The Equipment Operator I may provide direction to a small crew, depending on assignment.

Distinguishing Features: The Equipment Operator I class is distinguished from the Equipment Operator II by the latter’s higher degree of skill required to operate moderately complex heavy equipment or solid waste equipment and the greater consequences of error and exposure. The Equipment Operator I class is distinguished from the Field Worker II classification by the higher degree of skill required to operate a variety of construction equipment with limited to moderate complexity with equipment operation established as the primary function of the position. Supervision is received from a crew leader, foreman, or supervisor, who reviews incumbents’ work through on-site observation of work in progress and completed projects. This class is FLSA nonexempt.
QUALIFICATIONS

Employee Values: All employees of the City of Mesa are expected to uphold and exhibit the City’s shared employee values of Knowledge, Respect, and Integrity.

Minimum Qualifications Required. Any combination of training, education, and experience equivalent to graduation from high school or GED. Any combination of training, education, and experience equivalent to good (1 - 3 years) experience operating light trucks, construction equipment, and/or manual labor/maintenance tasks related to the assignment area.

Special Requirements. Solid Waste Assignment: Must possess a valid Arizona Class A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) with no air brake restriction and valid medical examiner’s certificate by hire date as well as must meet the qualifications to wear a tight fitting respirator by passing a medical evaluation in accordance with CFR 1910.134 by hire or promotion date and must maintain certification. Transportation Assignment: Must possess a valid Arizona Class A Commercial Driver’s License with Tanker endorsement by hire date.

Substance Abuse Testing. This class is subject to DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) drug and alcohol testing as outlined in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 382.

Preferred/Desirable Qualifications. Solid Waste Assignment: Experience performing heavy manual labor tasks is highly desirable. Experience operating a bin truck, bin truck with trailer or rear loader experience. Transportation Assignment: At least 3 years of construction or public works maintenance experience OR one year of full-time work experience with City of Mesa as Field Worker II (any assignment). Experience involving work with hot mix asphalt, concrete, seal coats, right-of-way or other related street maintenance activities. Some supervisory experience is preferred. Formal training or certification for equipment operation (example: manufacturer training, etc.) is desirable.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

One position may not include all of the essential functions, knowledge, skills, and abilities listed, nor do the listed examples include all the knowledge, skills, and abilities which may be found in positions of this classification.

Communication: Communicates with the general public, other City employees, management, or others to give directions, explain work situations, and plan work. Keeps records and prepares reports as required. Completes daily work logs and work order forms. Provides information and answers questions from the public/coworkers regarding City services or assigned departments, etc. Reads and understands maps and street signs and completes daily driver reports. Instructs Solid Waste Management staff in proper collection procedures and safety practices related to the lifting of heavy objects.

Manual/Physical: Skillfully and safely operates a variety of construction or solid waste equipment with limited- to moderate-complexity such as backhoes (fine grading), forklifts, trenching machines, street sweepers, slurry trucks, front-end loaders, tractors/gannons, a truck with a trailer, a stake body, bin truck with a trailer, and heavy refuse equipment such as a rear loader, self-propelled herbicide spray machines, articulated skid steer loader or equivalent equipment. Operates a variety of construction equipment requiring a valid Arizona Class A Commercial Drivers’ License (CDL) with required endorsements.
depending on assignment. Operates equipment according to traffic laws and regulations. Performs pre and post trip inspections to ensure equipment is in safe operating condition. Cleans equipment using the appropriate materials. Uses common hand tools such as: hammers, saws, screwdrivers, or similar tools. Moves debris, dirt, or other material from one place to another. Measures distances to estimate materials to be excavated or replaced. Sets up and removes traffic barricades in case of equipment breakdown or an oil spill. Working conditions may include the following: the hazards of flying debris; heavy manual labor; exposure to chemicals, such as equipment degreaser; and exposure to a variety of weather conditions. Detects audible backup warning devices and traffic sounds when working around moving equipment and in close proximity to moving traffic. Observes, inspects, or monitors conditions to determine compliance with prescribed operating or safety standards. Uses graphic instructions such as blueprints, layouts, schematic drawings, or other visual aids. Performs unskilled/skilled manual labor when needed. Performs routine service and preventative maintenance on trucks and equipment including but not limited to: cleaning, fueling, adding oil, and hydraulic fluid; filling radiators; checking instruments, mirrors, brakes, steering, and signals; maintaining tire pressure; and draining air tanks as needed. Performs minor maintenance on trucks, such as lubricating and inserting grease through zerk fittings as needed. Automatically or manually (depending on the item) lifts and maneuvers appliances, bulk items, refuse containers, etc. weighing up to 50 pounds or more. On occasion cleans barrels and bins. May train Solid Waste Management staff in the safe use of a rear loading truck, and to ensure refuse is picked up and disposed of properly. Moves dumpsters on casters weighing up to 2,000 pounds. Cleans cabs, windows, mirrors, etc. on equipment. Works around or uses potentially hazardous materials requiring the use of specialized equipment, (example: household hazardous waste event). Meets scheduling and attendance requirements.

**Mental:** Learns job-related material through on-the-job training. Comprehends and makes inferences from written material such as, drawings, specifications, construction documents, or work orders to complete assignments. Performs tasks in conformance with operations and maintenance manuals and established department procedures. May assist in supervising and evaluating the work of subordinate personnel. Understands job related material regarding equipment safety, repair, and construction techniques.

**Knowledge/Skill/Abilities:**

**Knowledge of:**

functions, operating methods, and care required for a wide variety of construction or solid waste equipment;
the hazards and applicable safety precautions for equipment operation;
equipment capabilities, limitations, and safe operating characteristics;
the safety practices and procedures used when working near heavy traffic;
Mesa standard details and specifications; and
traffic control procedures using traffic control devices.

**Skill in:**

the efficient and safe operation of construction equipment or solid waste equipment.
Ability to:

- effectively perform work assignments in accordance with verbal and written instructions;
- organize and prioritize daily work;
- perform construction work and manual labor as necessary;
- operate all assigned equipment and vehicles;
- assist in supervising effectively;
- supervise crews and/or contract personnel (based on assignment);
- make independent decisions on a regular basis;
- keep records and make reports;
- establish and maintain effective working relationships with coworkers and other employees; and
- handle all physical requirements of the class.

The duties listed above are intended only as general illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. Specific statements of duties not included does not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position. Job descriptions are subject to change by the City as the needs of the City and requirements of the job change.