

CAREER PROFILE

SAFETY TECHNICIAN



Name: Derek Cook
Employer: AREVA Resources Canada
Education: AREVA Mill Operator Training Program; Industrial Firefighter and Hazmat Responder Training

DETAILS OF THE JOB: As a Safety Technician, Derek inspects work areas to ensure they are safe to work in and issues “Hot Work Permits” and “Confined Space Permits” to various employees so they can perform work in areas that are not open for uncontrolled usage. He also performs respirator fit tests and teaches confined space entry and fall arrest protection to other employees. Ensuring that the Emergency Response Team equipment is in good functioning order is also part of Derek’s job. For example, conducting inventory checks and stocking in the ambulance, fire truck, wildfire and Hazmat trailers are regular tasks for Derek.

At the mill, camp and other on-site facilities, there are many safety systems that require regular inspections by Derek and his colleagues, such as the fire hydrants and connections, post indicator valves and fire alarm and suppression sprinklers systems. Another of Derek’s responsibilities is to conduct “safety huddles” within his team as well as attend other departments’ weekly safety huddles to ensure good communication and cooperation on matters related to safety.

SKILLS NEEDED:

- Good speaking and listening skills
- Critical thinking, and ability to monitor and assess performance

COMMENT: “Although this is truly the perfect job for me, I still find it challenging and learn something new every day. I like knowing that I contribute to ensuring that everyone can work safely as a team every day,” says Derek. “I also particularly enjoy being part of the Emergency Response Team. In that role you have to be ready to respond as soon as you set foot on site 24/7 and until you end your seven-day shift.”

Having been in the position of Safety Technician for nearly two years, Derek now has his sight set on becoming a Certified Construction Safety Officer. “One of the reasons I chose this career is that there are so many different opportunities when considering a career in Safety, truly working to ensure a good safety culture in the workplace is really rewarding,” concluded Derek.

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET AN EDUCATION? SK Construction Safety Association, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Parkland College, Great Plains College

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES: Health Science 20, Physical Education 20/30, Geography 20/30; Social Studies 20/30, Drafting and Computer Aided Design 20/30, Information Processing 20/30, Mathematics 30, English Language Arts 30

NOC: 2263

www.acareerimining.ca