

CAREER PROFILE

SENIOR RADIATION TECHNICIAN



Name: Kristen Desjarlais

Employer:

Education: Radiation and Environmental Monitoring Technician certificate

DETAILS OF THE JOB: Safety of people is one of a mining company's corporate values, and radiation technicians bring this commitment to life. Kristen is part of a team that monitors radiation levels throughout the uranium mine and ensures workers are safe at all times. The department is also in charge of scanning all materials and equipment that were exposed to radiation underground, to ensure levels are safe before they leave the site.

A TYPICAL DAY: Each day begins above ground with a toolbox meeting at the team's lab. Once the day's agenda has been shared, technicians go underground to the mine and check radiation levels at checkpoints which vary daily according to drilling schedule. They ensure priority headings are done first and stay on task to ensure there is enough time during their shift to collect all the required data. There is always at least one technician available in the lab to scan equipment and materials that have been underground, to ensure they are safe to leave site.

SKILLS NEEDED:

- Ability to prioritize your work
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team
- Sharp focus on accuracy ("Safety is No. 1," says Kristen.)

COMMENT: "Most people don't understand radiation and that is one of the big things I run into on my weeks off. Radiation up here is not going to give you cancer and it's not going to make you glow. It's very well regulated. We do our job very well."

Kristen's favourite aspect of her job is her co-workers. "We have a lot of fun while we work and you get to know people from all different walks of life. As you get to know them and learn about their lives and culture you also learn more about yourself."

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET AN EDUCATION? Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Northlands College

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES: Pre-Calculus 20, Health Science 20, Physical Science 20, Earth Science 20

NOC: 2263

