

## Career Pathway Spotlight

# Discover a Career as a Gas Field Technician



## Discover your career in energy!

Gas Field Technicians keep natural gas supply systems running safely and efficiently — from the wellhead to the homes and businesses that depend on it.

### Natural Gas Extraction & Well Operations

At wellheads and production sites, Gas Field Technicians monitor and maintain the equipment that brings natural gas from underground reservoirs to the surface — including separators, compressors, and dehydration units — ensuring safe and efficient production around the clock.

### Midstream Pipeline & Compression Stations

Operating and maintaining the infrastructure that moves natural gas from production fields to processing facilities and distribution networks, Gas Field Technicians keep compressor stations, metering equipment, and pipeline monitoring systems running reliably and safely.

### Distribution & End-Use Systems

Supporting the local distribution networks that deliver natural gas to homes, businesses, and industrial customers, Gas Field Technicians service pressure regulation stations, odorization systems, and meter sets — and are first responders when emergencies arise.

## CAREER PATH

### Start with:

- » A high school diploma or GED

### Get Educated:

- » An apprenticeship through a union or industry:
  - United Association (UA) of Plumbers and Pipefitters
- Apprenticeship Programs
  - Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) Training Programs
  - American Gas Association (AGA) Workforce Development Programs
- » A 2-year college program (e.g., Natural Gas Technology, Energy Technology)
- » Military service (e.g., Navy Gas Turbine Systems Technician, Army 91D Power Generation Repairer)

### Specialize With:

#### Certificates or credentials

- » NCCER: Instrumentation Certification
- » DOT Pipeline Safety Qualification (49 CFR Part 192/195)
- » OSHA 30-Hour General Industry Safety Certification
- » API (American Petroleum Institute) Individual Certification Programs

#### Knowledge in:

- » Gas metering
- » Pipeline safety
- » Pipeline integrity assessment
- » Plastic pipe fusion
- » Pressure regulation
- » Integrity management

## OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS

- » Critical thinking and problem solving in dynamic field conditions
- » Reading and interpreting technical schematics and process diagrams
- » Communication and teamwork
- » Time management and adherence to maintenance schedules
- » Attention to safety, gas hazards, and environmental regulations
- » Mechanical aptitude and equipment troubleshooting
- » Ability to work independently in remote field locations

## BENEFITS

### These energy industry careers offer:

- » Varied opportunities across the natural gas supply chain
- » Upward and continued career growth
- » Work-life balance — your work stays at work
- » Opportunities for skill development and specialization
- » Unionization and leading benefits packages
- » Good pay and critical, technically engaging work
- » High demand and strong job stability across the energy sector

# What Might You Do As A Gas Field Technician?

## ENTRY LEVEL

1-4 years

### What you will do:

- » Monitor wellhead, compression, and pipeline equipment for normal operation
- » Perform routine inspections and record gauge readings and operational data
- » Assist with equipment maintenance and minor repairs under supervision
- » Follow strict safety protocols for working with pressurized gas systems
- » Report equipment issues, leaks, or abnormal conditions to supervisors
- » Maintain cleanliness and orderliness of field equipment and work areas

## MID- CAREER

5-8 years

- » Independently operate and maintain gas production and transmission equipment
- » Troubleshoot equipment malfunctions using technical guides and diagnostic tools
- » Monitor SCADA systems and respond to automated alerts and alarms
- » Perform preventive maintenance on compressors, meters, and pressure regulators
- » Train and guide entry-level technicians on procedures and safety practices
- » Document maintenance activities and operational data for regulatory compliance

## EXPERIENCED

8+ years

- » Oversee field operations across multiple well sites, compressor stations, or distribution zones
- » Supervise technician teams, ensuring safe and efficient operations
- » Coordinate with engineering, environmental, and regulatory teams on compliance
- » Manage preventive maintenance programs and capital improvement projects
- » Lead emergency response operations including gas leaks and equipment failures
- » Report on operational performance, safety metrics, and budget adherence to management

### What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Basic mechanical aptitude and ability to use hand and power tools</li> <li>» Ability to read and understand basic technical manuals and procedures</li> <li>» Physical ability to work outdoors in varied terrain and weather conditions</li> <li>» Come to work on time and prepared</li> <li>» Listen and follow directions from senior technicians and supervisors</li> <li>» Willingness to work rotating shifts, including nights and weekends</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Proficiency with gas field equipment, instrumentation, and control systems</li> <li>» Ability to read and interpret process and instrumentation diagrams (P&amp;IDs)</li> <li>» Strong understanding of natural gas properties, hazards, and regulations</li> <li>» Effective written and verbal communication for reporting and documentation</li> <li>» Ability to diagnose and resolve complex mechanical and operational issues</li> <li>» Understanding of DOT pipeline safety regulations and compliance requirements</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Strong leadership and team management skills</li> <li>» Financial acumen for managing maintenance budgets and project costs</li> <li>» Comprehensive knowledge of gas field regulations (DOT, EPA, OSHA)</li> <li>» Ability to coordinate multiple sites and crews simultaneously</li> <li>» Advanced troubleshooting and systems-level thinking</li> <li>» Computer skills for SCADA monitoring, reporting, and work order management</li> </ul> |
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## GET PAID!

### Entry Level:

» \$59,040 / year\*

### As You Gain Seniority:

» \$83,400 / year\*

### Later in Your Career:

» \$109,350 / year\*

\*Source: BLS OEWS (2024). These figures use the 10th, 50th, and 90th percentiles of all workers in the role as a proxy for seniority progression and for consistency with the United States Energy & Employment Report. Compensation figures should be used as a guide; actual compensation may vary depending on education, geography, experience, and many other factors.



## ENERGY INDUSTRY CAREERS OFFER:

- » Excellent salaries
- » Opportunities for advancement
- » Job growth & stability
- » Professional development and training
- » Great benefits

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