

HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRAINING

Frequently Asked Questions

[PLEASE NOTE: Some of this information applies to the VTrans-sponsored participants only! AGC-VT (our training partner) has its own application and selection process.]

WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

It is two weeks of training each spring that includes 40 hours of classroom time and 40 hours of “seat time” on a number of pieces of heavy equipment. Students are given a textbook and expected to do nightly homework.

WHEN IS IT?

The 2011 training program starts on Monday, April 25th, and completes on Friday, May 6th. On the last day of class, we have a graduation ceremony to which students may invite family and friends.

WHERE IS THE TRAINING?

It is held at the Northeast Regional Safety Academy (NERSA) in Montpelier, Vermont.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

The program is free to accepted **WOMEN AND MINORITY MALE** applicants. We do ask every student to schedule and pay for a drug test taken no more than three weeks prior to the start of the training. A drug test generally costs \$50.00 - \$75.00.

WILL I NEED ANY SPECIAL CLOTHES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TRAINING PROGRAM?

Yes. Each participant is required to wear steel-toed boots, which we will provide as part of the training package. Raingear is also provided.

IF ACCEPTED INTO THIS PROGRAM, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE IT STARTS?

- You will be required to attend an Orientation Session in Montpelier in March 2011, before the class starts.
- Schedule and take a drug test; have the results sent to us at least one week before the class starts on April 25th.
- You will need to buy a pair of steel-toed boots if you don't already have one. (We will give you a voucher for these.)

WHAT HEAVY EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE TO OPERATE DURING THE TRAINING?

- Hydraulic Excavator
- Skid Steer
- Bulldozer
- Front End Loader
- Backhoe/Loader
- Mini Excavator

DOES THIS TRAINING INCLUDE ANY CERTIFICATIONS?

Yes, it includes a 10-hour OSHA course certification and a Certificate of Completion.

HOW ARE PARTICIPANTS “GRADED”?

There are two ways that students are graded or evaluated:

- On the last day of class, each student will take a written exam.
- During the class, instructors watch how each student progresses in operating the equipment. At the end of the training, the instructors discuss their observations with each student. Students are given a written evaluation that focuses on strengths and weaknesses observed during the training.

WHAT IF I DO POORLY ON THE WRITTEN TEST OR THE SKILLS TEST?

If you don't pass the course, you will still earn a Certificate of Participation. You will also be given a written and verbal evaluation by the instructors so you know where you need to make improvements.

WILL I BE PLACED IN A JOB WHEN I FINISH THIS COURSE?

It depends. Some students are already employed and will return to their job when the training ends. Our OJT Program Manager will work with any **WOMAN OR MINORITY MALE** who is looking for placement as an On-The-Job Trainee on a highway transportation project. There are no guarantees, but if someone has really proven to us that he/she is reliable, on time, and giving it their “all” during the two weeks, we do as much as we can to help that person find employment as an OJT.

WHAT IF I APPLY THIS YEAR AND DON'T GET INTO THE CLASS?

Every year we receive about three times the number of applications as we have seats to fill in the class! This is a popular training program. We always have to make some difficult decisions when selecting students. If you don't get in the first time you apply, you should apply again next year if you are still interested.

THIS SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!!! HOW DO I APPLY?!

If you are a **WOMAN OR MINORITY MALE**, complete the [Heavy Equipment Training Application](#). If you are [not a woman or minority male](#), please call AGC at 802.223.2374 for an application.