



## STUDENT ACTIVATION



# Derrickhand

**Derrickhands** have a physically demanding job in all weather conditions and don't mind some sweat or dirt. They can work at high heights manipulating huge and heavy equipment. They have mechanical knowledge and value teamwork to help safely extract natural gas and oil.

## DERRICKHAND <sup>1</sup>

As a member of a natural gas or oil drilling team who usually reports directly to the driller, the **derrickhand** orients pipes as they are inserted into wells. As they progress in their job, they will be involved with training new team members. When not drilling, they may also help others, for instance working with the mud loggers making sure the mixture of mud in the well is correct. The job is very physical and being safety conscious is critical as they work at heights nearly eighty-five feet up in the air. While wearing a harness and personal safety equipment, the derrickhand leans off the platform to grab the pipes as they are raised and guide them to where they are stored until they are needed again.

## IS DERRICKHAND A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Me	Derrickhand
I like being active and being outdoors. I enjoy camping and hiking.	Derrickhands are strong, active workers who spend their time in the field and at high heights.
I enjoy being on teams and am good at following directions.	Derrickhands are second in command to drillers and mud loggers and must be able to collaborate while following specific instructions.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Career/Drilling-Rig-Derrickhand/What-Is-How-to-Become>

# Derrickhand

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



I like machines and learning how things work.	Derrickhands must understand how the equipment they are working with works and where pieces belong to do their job safely.
I am perseverant and I don't give up easily.	Derrickhands are hardworking and can see great progress in their profession with grit and perseverance.

How does this career help me?	How does this career help the world?
Most U.S. natural gas is used for heating and generating electricity. About half of the homes in America use natural gas for space heating and water heating. The next time you take a hot shower, flip on the AC, or boil your pasta, you can thank a derrickhand for providing you with the heat and electricity you need.	With rigorous safety regulations, hydraulic fracturing may safely extract natural gas from the earth and replace the use of coal with gas, reducing carbon pollution. Derrickhands are an important part of obtaining gas that burns cleaner than coal, reducing air pollution, and making the world a healthier place.

What are some similar careers?
<p><b>Civil engineer technologists</b> help civil engineers plan, design, and build infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Hydraulic technicians</b> help engineers explore and extract natural resources.</p> <p><b>Roughnecks</b> maintain and repair equipment on the drill floor and derrick while also working on the pipeline connections in a drill hole.</p>

Here are ways to practice the skills to be a successful **derrickhand**:

- Harness up and go ziplining! Practice moving and working in a harness at great heights.
- Put your strength and stamina to the test by rock climbing. Don't give up when your legs shake and your fingers cramp. When you think you can't go any further, push yourself to go a few feet higher.
- Is rain predicted this weekend? Go camping! Grab other daring friends and make the best of a wet weekend.