OVERVIEW
Operations Supervisors manage all physical aspects of a department or area in a company. These professionals collect data to analyze the overall efficacy of the department. They could find themselves working with oil companies, government organizations, manufacturing industries, and the corporate world. Operations Supervisors find their future in almost any enterprise using the latest technology to make their teams run with peak efficiency.

EVALUATE YOUR INTEREST

☐ I like the idea of helping people find the best way of accomplishing a task.

☐ I enjoy watching the flow of patterns and seeing how they work, then looking for ways to make them better.

☐ I like to collect data and see how all the information makes a story.

☐ I like the idea of being a leader and having a significant effect by making just a few small changes.

☐ I enjoy paying attention to detail and keeping things organized.
**How does this career affect me?**

All the power plants, oil refineries, and water treatment plants that make our life possible are kept going by Operations Supervisors. Without plants like these, we would not have our water at the tap, oil or gas to heat our homes, and electricity to run our chargers for our devices. We can also find these supervisors working in smaller scale operations. They are the ones running a school campus of multiple buildings to ensure each building gets cleaned, has heat and electricity, and gets repaired. The Operations Supervisor may also run a department in a company. So, when you call the customer service department to get help with a product, there is someone in charge, making sure you get the right support you need.

**What are some other similar careers?**

- **Plant Managers** review aspects of the plant’s performance and will ensure the objectives are attained in a safe, cost-effective manner that’s consistent with company policy and procedures. They are responsible for delegating authority to managers and supervisors, managing all functions involved, and coordinating operations for the plant.

- **Operations Managers** plan, direct, and supervise the work activities, customer satisfaction, profitability, and the day-to-day operations and management of a branch. This office position will identify profitable market segments and business opportunities. They also secure new customers and maintain current customers.

- **Logistics Leaders** ensure that business objectives are met or exceeded for safety, quality, service, productivity, cost, and efficient storage. They monitor shipping, receiving, and the handling of finished goods and materials.

**How does this career affect the world?**

Operations Supervisors keep everything going. Without these professionals, working shifts would not be filled, and parts would not be replaced before they wear out. In these large organizations, there needs to be one person or one team organizing and verifying everyone is getting everything done. Even in smaller organizations, there needs to be someone to approve the job that is being completed and verify that the schedule is being maintained. Operations Supervisors also make sure tasks are completed as efficiently, safely, and at the best price. The Operations Supervisor is always looking for ways to improve the operations of the area where they are in charge.

**TAKE ACTION**

- Investigate your home or school for ways for ways to improve a process or task such as a fire drill. Are there faster ways to evacuate? Are some paths better than others? Do people need to be directed to a different door? How are people who cannot use stairs evacuated? Once you have all the data, share it with your family or school!

- Contact a local plant and see if you can interview the Operations Supervisor. Prepare a list of questions beforehand and investigate what the company does. If you know a worthy cause that this company could consider contributing to, be sure to recommend it!

- Put your organization skills to the test. Think about your daily routine. Find a task that you usually do and find a way to make it run more efficiently. Follow a planning process like creating a flow chart or diagram to develop a better method. Put the process into effect and keep data to track the improvements. See what other areas in your life you can improve!