HEAVY AND TRACTOR-TRAILER TRUCK DRIVERS

Job Description: One of the jobs in highest demand for the oil and gas industry is that of a heavy and tractor-trailer truck driver. Thousands of trucks are being used daily to deliver water and sand for fracking, transporting crude oil, hauling supplies and equipment, and more. Drivers are needed for tractor-trailer combinations or trucks with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). Drivers are required to have a commercial driver's license and may be required to assist with loading and unloading the trucks. Other tasks include:



- Checking vehicles to ensure that
 mechanical, safety, and emergency equipment is in good working order
- Maneuvering trucks into loading or unloading positions, and checking that the vehicle and loading equipment are properly positioned
- Collecting delivery instructions from appropriate sources, and verifying instructions and routes
- Maintaining logs of working hours or of vehicle service and repair status, following applicable state and federal regulations
- Properly securing cargo for transport

Needed Skills and Education: Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers work somewhat independently. Employers seek out drivers who are dependable, who have good judgment and decision-making skills, and who pay close attention to detail. It is hard work with irregular hours, and occasionally requires driving in hazardous weather conditions. Safe driving is a must. A high school or GED diploma is preferred, along with short-term on-the-job training. State and federal regulations govern the qualifications and standards for heavy truck drivers. Most employers require a clean driving record. To qualify, a driver must obtain a commercial driver's license from the state in which they live. Many private and public vocational-technical schools offer heavy and tractor-trailer truck driver training programs.

Wages: In North Dakota, the average annual wage for this occupation is \$45,700. This is above the national average annual wage of \$40,360. The average hourly wage in North Dakota is \$21.97, ranging from an entry-level wage of \$14.94/hour to a wage of \$29.99/hour for experienced drivers.

Other Information: Once trained and licensed for heavy and tractor-trailer truck driving, a person can work almost anywhere they choose. Nationally, this occupation employs over 1.6 million workers, well over the national average for all occupations of 191,847 workers.

Find out more at <u>www.rureadynd.com</u>.