



# Energizing Careers – Become a Substation Worker

**Description:** A substation journeyman is responsible for installation, maintenance and repair of substation equipment. A substation is a part of an electrical generation, transmission and distribution system. Substations transform voltages low to high to move power across our nation. Voltages range from 4,000 volts to 345,000 volts. Transformers, breakers, capacitors, reactors, switches, and various types of conductors can be found in substations and are usually mounted on steel structures. Substation workers switch circuits to balance or restore power. They are subject to emergency call outs and overtime and will work outdoors in all types of weather. If the entire neighborhood or section of town is without power, a substation journeyman responds.

**Skills and Qualifications:** The minimum qualifications for a substation apprentice is a high school diploma, a commercial driver's permit, the ability to lift 75 lbs, physically capable of climbing steel, working at heights, mechanical ability, and the aptitude to understand algebra and electrical theory.

Being an active listener with good communications skills is required. Employees must be flexible, able to problem solve and willing to work emergent hours. Must be receptive to new technology. A safety mindset and ability to work as a contributing member of a team with a variety of personalities is required.

## Substation Pathway:



### Education Programs/Partnerships:

- Cloud County Community College
- Pratt Community College
- Metropolitan Community College
- IBEW

### Annual Salary:

- Pre-Apprentice: **\$48,000**
- Apprentice: **\$73,500–95,900**
- Journeyman Substation Operator: **\$106,400**
- Substation Foreman: **\$117,500**
- Substation Mechanical Technician: **\$117,500**

### Internships and Job Opportunities:

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## Step 1 Pre-Apprentice (6 months):

### *What will you do?*

- Learn, understand and apply safety rules and safe work practices.
- Provide assistance to Substation Journeymen
- Make work area safe
- Drive equipment and stock work vehicles

### *What knowledge/skills/abilities do you need?*

- Come to work on time
- Ability to work in team setting
- Ability to obtain a commercial drivers license
- Listen, follow directions and respond to feedback
- Lift 75 lbs
- Be comfortable working at heights and working outdoors in all seasons.

## Step 2 Apprentice (4 years):

### *What will you do?*

- Learn through on the job training at the direction of a qualified, experienced substation worker
- Climb steel and work with hands
- Identify and safely use various tools
- Perform switching operations

### *What knowledge/skills/abilities do you need?*

- Have a continuous learning mindset with a questioning attitude
- Identify and have working knowledge of substation equipment
- Apply AC/DC fundamentals
- Responsible for completing NJATC courses, workbooks, written & oral exams.

## Step 3 Journeyman Substation Operator:

### *What will you do?*

- Install, repair and maintenance substation equipment
- Respond to emergent conditions
- Respond to substation outages

- Run cable and wire equipment
- Operate heavy equipment, boom trucks and bucket trucks
- Assist other substation, distribution and generation work groups.

### *What knowledge/skills/abilities do you need?*

- Define how various parts of the distribution, substation and transmission system work to provide power to customers.
- Diagnose and trouble shoot system changes or malfunctions.
- Use mechanical aptitude to solve equipment issues.
- Read electrical diagrams and system schematics.

## Step 4 Substation Foreman:

### *What will you do?*

- Direct crew members
- Determine schedules and work activities
- Check for unsafe work conditions
- Communicate with management and distribution system operators
- Identify defective devices

### *What knowledge/skills/abilities do you need?*

- Ability to plan and execute job plans
- Read engineering prints and substation one lines
- Coordinate several competing activities efficiently and effectively
- Computer skills for communication and documentation

## Step 4 Substation Mechanical Technician (2 years):

### *What will you do?*

- Diagnostic Testing
- Breaker Timing
- Dissolved gas analysis and oil sampling
- Infrared inspection and radio noise location

### *What knowledge/skills/abilities do you need?*

- Successfully complete Mechanical Technician Training Program
- Set up and install test equipment
- Analyze and compare data

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