



CHAFFEE COUNTY GOVERNMENT Job Description

POSITION TITLE: Equipment Operator I
REPORTS TO: Landfill Manager
CLASSIFICATION: Full-time
SCHEDULE: Mon-Thurs or Wed – Sat, 40 hours

DEPARTMENT: Waste Disposal
FLSA STATUS: Nonexempt
DATE: July 2026
LOCATION: Salida Landfill

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Landfill Equipment Operator I performs skilled operation of heavy equipment in support of daily landfill operations, including waste placement, compaction, cover application, road maintenance, and site upkeep. The position supports safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible landfill operations by operating equipment, maintaining landfill infrastructure, inspecting equipment, and assisting with scale house operations and other landfill activities as needed.

In the event of a local emergency due to an actual or threatened disaster, County employees may be required to provide services during the emergency and for a subsequent period of assessment and recovery.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The following duty statements are illustrative of the essential functions of the job and do not include other non-essential or marginal duties that may be required. The County reserves the right to modify or change the duties or essential functions of this job at any time.

Equipment Operation & Landfill Maintenance

- Operate heavy equipment, including bulldozers, compactors, graders, backhoes, loaders, and haul trucks, to move, spread, compact, and cover refuse in accordance with landfill operating procedures.
- Maintain landfill roads, working faces, drainage areas, and other operational areas to promote safe, efficient, and environmentally compliant landfill operations.
- Load, haul, place, and maintain daily and intermediate cover materials as directed.
- Perform litter control and debris removal along fences, roads, and surrounding property to maintain site cleanliness and prevent off-site migration of waste.

Equipment Inspection & Maintenance

- Perform pre-trip and post-trip equipment inspections, routine preventive maintenance, and minor repairs; identify and report equipment deficiencies requiring additional maintenance.

Site Operations, Safety & Customer Support

- Assist with directing traffic, controlling site access, and maintaining a safe environment for customers, contractors, and employees.
- Assist with scale house operations as needed, including providing customer assistance, weighing loads, processing transactions, and collecting fees.
- Monitor landfill activities and promptly report equipment malfunctions, safety hazards, environmental concerns, customer issues, or operational problems to the Landfill Manager.
- Comply with all County safety policies, landfill operating procedures, and applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
- May be required to work Saturdays and holidays, occasional overtime, and respond to critical service needs.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**Knowledge:**

- Landfill operations, landfill safety practices, environmental controls, and applicable federal, state, and local regulations governing solid waste disposal.
- Basic heavy equipment inspection, preventive maintenance practices, and common mechanical deficiencies.
- Occupational and equipment safety practices applicable to landfill operations.

Skills:

- Safely operating heavy equipment, including bulldozers, compactors, graders, loaders, backhoes, haul trucks, and other equipment used in landfill operations.
- Performing pre-trip and post-trip equipment inspections and routine preventive maintenance.
- Basic mathematics, reading comprehension, and following written and verbal instructions.
- Communicating courteously and effectively with coworkers, supervisors, contractors, and the public.
- Operating basic office equipment, computers, and mobile devices used for work assignments, inspections, and communication.

Abilities:

- Recognize mechanical deficiencies and equipment conditions requiring maintenance or repair.
- Recognize safety hazards, changing site conditions, and operational issues and respond appropriately.
- Solve routine operational problems and exercise sound judgment in changing work environments.
- Work effectively both independently and as part of a team.
- Understand, interpret, and consistently apply County policies, procedures, safety standards, and applicable regulations.

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- High school diploma or GED.
- At least 18 years of age.
- One (1) year of experience operating heavy equipment in construction, public works, mining, agriculture, landfill operations, or a related field.
- Working knowledge and experience in truck driving and light and heavy equipment operation.
- First-Aid and CPR training and certification or obtain within 6 months of hire.
- Valid Colorado driver's license with acceptable motor vehicle record.

PREFERRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Experience operating bulldozers, compactors, graders, loaders, backhoes, haul trucks, or similar heavy equipment.
- Experience working in a municipal solid waste landfill, transfer station, road and bridge, public works, or construction environment.
- Experience performing preventive maintenance and daily inspections of heavy equipment.
- Experience working around heavy equipment in accordance with OSHA, MSHA, or comparable safety standards.
- Commercial Driver License (CDL).

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Frequently stand, walk, bend, stoop, kneel, twist, reach, climb, and perform other physical activities necessary to operate heavy equipment and perform landfill maintenance duties.
- Sit for extended periods while safely operating heavy equipment and vehicles over rough or uneven terrain.

- Walk and work on uneven surfaces, including gravel, dirt, mud, slopes, and other outdoor terrain.
- Lift, carry, push, and pull objects weighing up to 50 pounds, or up to 100 with assistance.
- Frequently use hands and fingers to grasp, manipulate, and operate equipment controls, hand tools, and other work-related equipment.
- Possess sufficient visual acuity to read gauges and instruments, distinguish objects at near and far distances, perceive depth, maintain peripheral vision, and safely operate equipment in varying weather and lighting conditions.
- Possess sufficient hearing to communicate effectively in person, by telephone, and by two-way radio, and to recognize warning signals, backup alarms, and other sounds associated with heavy equipment and landfill operations.
- Possess sufficient sense of smell to detect odors that may indicate hazardous materials, chemical releases, smoke, or other unsafe conditions.
- Wear and properly use required personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, safety glasses, high-visibility apparel, hearing protection, respiratory protection, Tyvek suits, steel-toe boots, and other protective equipment as required.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:

The majority of work is performed outdoors in an active landfill environment, with occasional work performed inside vehicles, equipment cabs, maintenance areas, or other protected environments. Employees are regularly exposed to seasonal weather conditions, including extreme heat, cold, snow, rain, wind, humidity, and rapidly changing weather.

Employees are frequently exposed to loud noise, vibration, dust, dirt, fumes, odors, exhaust, airborne particles, chemicals, and mechanical hazards associated with heavy equipment and landfill operations. Work is performed in close proximity to moving vehicles, commercial trucks, heavy equipment, and active traffic patterns requiring constant situational awareness.

Work is routinely performed on uneven terrain, including gravel, dirt, mud, slopes, ditches, and other irregular surfaces. Employees may be exposed to potentially hazardous or regulated waste materials and are required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and comply with all County safety policies, landfill operating procedures, and applicable regulations.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Chaffee County is an equal opportunity employer (EOE). Employment decisions are based on business needs, job requirements, and individual qualifications without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, religion, the presence of a medical condition or disability, veteran status, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy status, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, or any other legally protected status.

Job Description Acknowledgement

I understand that this job description is intended to describe the general nature of the work to be performed and that it is not an exhaustive list of all duties, skills, and responsibilities associated with the position. It does not constitute a written or implied contract of employment. If I have questions, I will seek clarification from my supervisor.

I have received, read and understand the job duties, responsibilities and expectations set forth in the job description for this position.

Employee Printed Name:

Date Signed:

Employee Signature:
