



**THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

JSN: 0292	Grade: H461	Union Affiliation: 0308
Position:	Tower Worker	
Department:	Transportation Personnel	
Location:	Towers & Interlocking Plants – All Sections	
Reports To:	Various	
Safety Sensitive:	FTA	Date: May 31, 2002

POSITION SUMMARY

Operates track switches and signals in an interlocking plant, from a central tower, to route trains according to a pre-arranged schedule, special orders, and safety regulations.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

1	Operates tower and routes trains according to schedule supervisor guide.
2	Monitors time of scheduled and late train arrivals and notifies Rail Controller via radio.
3	Gives trains signal to proceed through interlocking plant, after determining that all switches and crossovers are clear, by one of the following methods, which controls switches, track trips, and signals that indicate to motor worker or switch worker that train can proceed: 1) By throwing over an upright lever that sets a switch in a certain position, either for a straight track or crossover, the lever locking itself to indicate that switch is entirely thrown, and also throwing levers that raise or lower track trips and set signals at danger or give right to proceed. 2) By operation of a small hand lever for control of an electric magnet that allows a cylinder to release a flow of air or energizes an electric motor that moves switches, track trips, and signals. 3) By operation of a push-pull button on a board that shows location of switches, track trips, and signals, also track circuits as indicated by lights on board.
4	Observes track and board indications for trains moving in both directions.
5	Operates plant, giving trains the right to proceed according to a set combination or schedule.
6	Operates a time release that allows any particular switch, trip, or signal to be changed when track circuit is defective.
7	Observes air gauges and volt meters that indicate air pressure and required voltage for operation of plant.
8	Throws switches by hand when plant machine is defective, by going onto track and cutting out air-on switch, using a hand operated lever to throw switch and trip, cutting out and hand-throwing switches in all electric interlocking plants, flagging train with green flag or lantern by signal if set at danger.
9	Sets all signals at danger when a derailment occurs or when a motor worker runs through open switch or interlocking plant suffering damage and keeps them that way until all parts of interlocking plant are examined by a qualified person and permission is given to



**THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

	resume operations.
10	Operates parts of plant not in constant use in freezing weather, in order to prevent freezing.
11	Uses telephone and other intercommunication systems to receive information regarding train movements, service requirements, and unusual conditions, from rail controllers, supervisors, tower worker, crews, yard foreperson, and others, and gives such information to them.
12	At times uses public address system to make announcements to passengers and train crews.
13	Notifies rail controller when foggy or stormy weather interferes with safe operation of plant.
14	Observes and reports any unlighted train destination markers, tail lights, and headlights.
15	Reports to rail controller any unusual occurrences at or near tower.
16	May keep a train sheet at certain towers showing car numbers and arriving / leaving time of all trains.
17	Reports broken track trips to rail controller or interlocking maintainer and follows it up with written report to a Superintendent explaining to the best of his knowledge how trip was broken.
18	Assists motor worker / switch worker with defective trains fouling plant in clearing such delays.
19	Prepares and submits tower reports to Superintendent showing defective parts of interlocking plant and unusual occurrences during tour of duty.
20	Informs relief tower worker of any special orders received and notifies of condition of interlocking plant.
21	Determines physical condition of relief tower worker and ascertains if he / she is capable of working.
22	Moves trains in correct combination through plant according to schedule and may start trains when working a terminal tower.
23	Studies bulletins and special orders received.
24	Inquires about condition of interlocking plant before beginning of each work shift.
25	Performs related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting to this position are the following jobs:

Job Title
•



THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY POSITION DESCRIPTION

CHALLENGES

-

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

- Required to submit to and pass drug and alcohol testing as mandated by the Federal Transportation Administration.
- Must be a qualified rail service Motor Worker, Conductor, and Flagperson.
- Must fully qualify for all towers in assigned section.
- Must have experience in related qualifying positions.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Must be in good physical condition and able to coordinate members of the body.
- Must have good eyesight and hearing and be able to distinguish colors.
- Must sit most of the time, except at hand lever operated towers, where one is required to use a great deal of strength in the throwing of levers, and stand most of the time.
- Must be mentally alert at all times to protect movement of trains.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

- Must have a thorough knowledge of Authority rules, regulations, and procedures relative to the operation of rail vehicles, tower operations, and train schedules.
- Must have a thorough knowledge of tower, all interlocking appliances, locations of all switches, track trips, and targets which are controlled from tower, location of air cut out valves, and how to throw switches by hand.
- Must be thoroughly familiar with track circuits located within tower control.
- Must have a thorough knowledge of trains and tower troubleshooting techniques.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Works inside.
- Required to work adjacent to electrically energized conductors and breaker switches in all types of weather.
- Works various days and hours as assigned or picked

EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, AND MATERIALS UTILIZED

-