

Gary Reppert

Age: 21

Job Title: Electrical Design Technician Apprentice

Company Name: Smeal Fire Apparatus Co.

College: Northeast Community College

Degree or Certification: Associate in Electronics Engineering



What does your company do?

Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. is one of the best known manufacturers of Aerial Ladders, Aerial Platforms, and Pumper Fire Trucks in the United States and Canada.

What attracted you to the company?

I always wanted to be close to my hometown of West Point, Nebraska and Smeal is only about 15 minutes away. In addition to the close proximity it also offered a good quality job and an excellent pay and benefits package.

Please list some of your duties:

Some of my duties include but are not limited to the interpretation of customer specifications to formulate production instructions/drawings and design components that meet these specifications. Formulate amp draw reports for the sales departments to supply both new and returning customers. Help Smeal stay on the cutting edge of fire apparatus design.

What are the best/most interesting things about your job?

It is difficult to pick any one thing that is interesting about my job because there are so many. I would have to say one of my top picks would be learning all the variations to how the fire trucks can be designed. The next would be the constantly changing and improving technology involved in this process.

What is the most rewarding thing about your job?

The most rewarding thing about my job is I know that by producing the best quality fire trucks possible I am helping to save lives.

How did you decide on this career path?

I've always had an interest in new technology and how it is constantly changing. In addition to that, as a child I always enjoyed taking things apart and figuring out how they worked.

What kind of school, classes, and training most prepared you with the necessary skills?

The education I received at Northeast Community College was second to none. There were only eight students in my class so we received lots of hands on training and one on one time with our advisors.

Do you make a good living?

(A specific \$ amount is not necessary, but we'd like to know how you feel about your standard of living, i.e., the things you can afford, such as a new home or vehicle, savings, investments, entertainment, etc.)

I feel that I make an adequate amount of money for the qualifications I have. I graduated from college less than a year ago but already have my own place to live and am well on my way to having ample savings built up for my future.

What kind of salary and benefits can a new employee at your company expect?

Smeal Fire Apparatus has great benefits and in my opinion the best job security around because there will always be a need for fire trucks.

What kind of technology do you use and interact with?

Smeal Fire Apparatus uses AutoCAD which is used in creating the designs the various types of fire apparatus.

What advice would you give to students who are undecided on a career choice?

The advice I would give to students is, don't waste time, find something you enjoy doing and go for it. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something because anything is possible.

Finally, what do you think makes you a good Career Dream Team candidate?

I think I am a good Dream Team candidate because I like my chosen field, my job, and I have worked very hard to get where I am.