

# FIBER OPTICS TECHNICIAN

## { JOB DESCRIPTION }

Fiber optics technicians maintain fiber optic cable systems that carry both voice and digital transmissions. They install the cables following precise schematics. They locate and repair defects in existing systems, placing, rearranging, and removing cables when necessary. They also install supports and insulation and perform other tasks to maintain cables. With computer networks, these technicians run the cable through the office building to connect the computers.

## { SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED }

- Knowledge of transmission, broadcasting, switching, control, and operation of telecommunications systems
- Knowledge of electric circuit boards, processors, chips, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming
- Knowledge of equipment, tools, mechanical devices, and their uses to produce motion, light, power, technology, and other applications
- Computer equipment selection and installation, repair, troubleshooting, and maintenance skills
- Oral and written communication skills
- Manual dexterity

Fiber optics technicians should be reliable, accurate, and able to make good judgments. They should also be able to work well under pressure and be comfortable working at great heights and in small, enclosed spaces, as a lot of their work is done on ladders and poles or in specialized vehicles. These technicians often connect television sets to cable systems, evaluate incoming signals, and adjust the system as necessary to ensure optimum reception. They may also be found climbing poles or entering tunnels and sewers to string lines or install terminal boxes, auxiliary equipment or appliances.

## { SOUTH PLAINS }

Avg. Wage  
**\$16.39**

Avg. Annual  
Job Openings  
**10**

Employment in  
1998 2008  
**190 220**

## { TEXAS }

Avg. Wage  
**\$18.76**

Avg. Annual  
Job Openings  
**460**

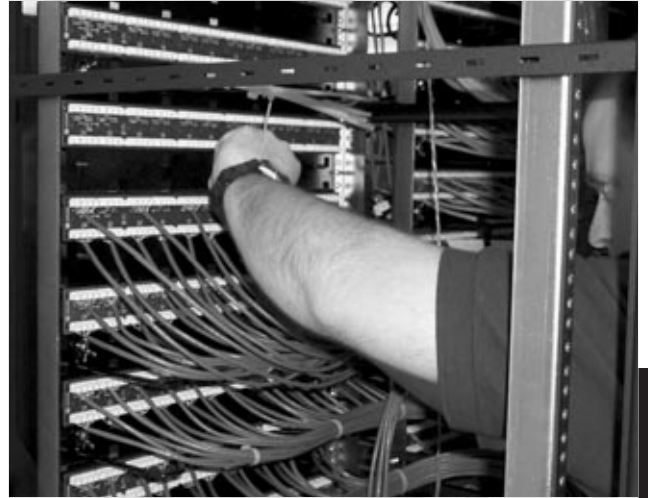
Employment in  
1998 2008  
**21,910 22,360**

## { U.S. EMPLOYMENT }

In 1998  
**188,722**

Female **NA**  
Minority **NA**

## ENGINEERING & INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CAREERS



### { PREFERRED EDUCATION }

Training in fiber optics and other telecommunications systems;  
OJT to gain experience

### { LICENSE / CERTIFICATION }

### { REGIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS }

- **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**- Associate of Arts (A.A.), Telecommunications
- **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Telecommunication; Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Electrical and Computer Engineering; Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Computer Science; Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Engineering Technology

### { JOB SITES }

Telephone Communications	42.1%
Electrical Work	27.0%
Cable and Other Pay Television Services	17.2%
Heavy Construction, Except Hwy. & Street Const.	7.6%
Electrical Goods	2.0%

### { FOR MORE INFORMATION }

NA