Crusher Operator interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for crusher operator roles usually blend practical plant knowledge with safety and shift-fit questions. Expect a mix of technical checks, behavioural questions and scenario-based problems grounded in the daily realities of fixed plant crushing.

- **Technical and process:** Questions about crusher types, closed side settings, feed rates, liner wear and how you keep product size consistent.
- **Safety and risk:** Questions on isolation, hazard reporting, dust and noise controls, and working safely around conveyors and rotating equipment.
- **Behavioural:** Past examples of breakdowns, shift handovers, teamwork and times you solved a plant problem.
- **Scenario and problem solving:** What you would do if a blockage, feed change or equipment fault happened mid-shift.
- **Site and roster fit:** Remote work, shift patterns, medicals and reliability expectations.

The interview may start with a phone or site screen covering tickets, medicals and roster availability. That is usually followed by a supervisor or plant manager interview. That stage often includes a walk-through of your operating experience, a few technical questions about crusher settings and maintenance, and safety scenarios. Some sites add a practical or verbal assessment on isolation procedures or a plant walk with the interviewer.

1. Can you walk me through how you set up and monitor a jaw or cone crusher to hit a product size?

Why they ask

This checks whether you understand the crusher itself rather than just watching a screen. It also shows how you react when the product drifts off spec.

How to structure your answer

Give a step-by-step walk-through: pre-start checks, feed size, closed side setting, monitoring points, adjustment, and recording. Keep it in the order you actually do the job.

Example answer

“I start with the pre-start: check the crusher is clear, guards are in place, and the lubrication system is running. Once the plant is running, I check the feed size against the crusher's capacity and set the closed side setting to the target for the product. From there I watch the ammeter, the conveyor weightometer and the product belt. If the amp draw climbs or the product gets coarse, I adjust the closed side setting or the feed rate. I record the settings and any changes in the shift log so the next crew can pick it up.”

2. Tell me about a time you had to deal with a blockage or equipment fault during a shift.

Why they ask

Blockages and faults are a normal part of fixed plant work. The interviewer wants to see how you isolate, communicate and get the plant running again safely.

How to structure your answer

Use STAR: situation, task, action, result. Keep the actions specific to isolation, inspection and restart.

Example answer

“We had a blockage at the transfer chute on night shift. The belt was still running but the crusher was starting to surge. I stopped the feed, isolated the belt and crusher, and let the supervisor know. After locking out, I cleared the chute and checked the belt for damage. I found a worn skirt rubber that was letting fines build up. We replaced it on the spot and I restarted the plant slowly, watching the amp draw. We lost about forty minutes of production but avoided a belt tear that would have cost the rest of the shift.”

3. A dust suppression system fails on a hot day. What do you do?

Why they ask

Crusher operators work with dust and heat every shift. This question tests your judgement under pressure and whether you follow site procedures.

How to structure your answer

Assess the risk, follow the procedure, communicate, escalate, and monitor. Show that you know when to stop the plant rather than push on.

Example answer

“First I would assess the risk. If dust is blowing across the walkway or over nearby equipment, I would stop the feed to the crusher and shut down the transfer points in that area. I would let the supervisor know straight away and check whether the water supply or the pump is the problem. If it is a simple fix like a blocked nozzle, I would isolate and clear it. If it needs maintenance, I would keep the area clear, put up barricades if needed, and wait for the fitter. I would not restart until the dust is under control and the supervisor is happy.”

4. How do you manage dust and noise around the crusher and transfer points?

Why they ask

Environmental controls are part of the job. The interviewer is checking that you treat dust and noise as ongoing responsibilities, not just problems for the environmental team.

How to structure your answer

Describe the controls you use, how you monitor them, what you do when they are not working, and how you record issues.

Example answer

“I start by making sure the water sprays and dust extraction are working before I run the plant. During the shift I watch the transfer points and the stockpile area for visible dust. If I see dust escaping, I check the spray nozzles and the water pressure, and I slow the feed if needed. For noise, I keep the cabin doors closed and wear hearing protection when I am out on the plant. If a control is not working, I report it in the shift log and tell the supervisor so it gets fixed before the next shift.”

5. What experience do you have with SCADA or plant control systems, and how do you use them in a shift?

Why they ask

Fixed plant is often run from a control room or a panel. The interviewer wants to know you can read trends, spot faults and respond without waiting for someone else.

How to structure your answer

Name the systems you have used, describe what you monitor on them, give an example of a fault you picked up, and explain how you escalated it.

Example answer

“I have used Citect SCADA and Rockwell PlantPAx on fixed plant, mainly for starting and stopping conveyors and monitoring the crusher amp draw and belt weightometer. On a typical shift I check the trends at the start, then watch for spikes in the amp draw or drops in the feed rate. One night I noticed

the cone crusher amps climbing slowly while the feed rate stayed steady. I checked the chamber and found the liner was wearing unevenly. I reported it to the supervisor and we scheduled a liner change before it caused a breakdown."

6. This role is on a remote site with a roster. How do you manage the shift pattern and look after yourself?

Why they ask

Remote and shift work is a big part of the role. The interviewer wants to know you will turn up reliably and stay safe across a roster.

How to structure your answer

Be honest about your routines: sleep, food, exercise, communication with home, and how you switch off after a shift. Show that you understand the demands.

Example answer

"I have worked rosters before and I know it comes down to routine. I keep my sleep consistent, eat properly and get some exercise in before or after shift depending on the roster. I stay in touch with family when I can, but I also make sure I get enough rest so I am sharp on the plant. If I am feeling fatigued, I speak up early rather than push through. That is how I stay reliable across a swing."