

MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Brice Hy

Organization: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission - Wastewater Enterprise

Job Category (Check one below):

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Maintenance Technician/
Instrument Technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrician/Electrical Line Worker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Mechanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |



1. Please describe the work you do:

As an apprentice stationary engineer, we can be asked to work in many different work teams in perspective to develop a better knowledge of our plant. We can be asked to work with the operator engineers, the maintenance engineer, or in the process laboratory. But our main duty as apprentice is to learn what our journeyman, senior, chief, superintendent, or anyone around us has to teach us in order to become a dependable and reliable journeyman. We have to accumulate as much knowledge as possible to be able to perform near excellence.

Following the operator engineers, I will have to assist them in their daily routine of switching equipment and machinery, re-routing flows as required, taking reading of different equipments in order to determine the proper operation of the equipment and its impact on the process. We learn how to troubleshoot equipment, how to maintain a good process by manipulating our equipments. We learn how to interpret different readings and act accordingly to them. We mainly operate equipment in function of process requirement.

Under a maintenance engineer, we learn how to maintain, replace, troubleshoot, and repair equipment. This is the core of a good operator. As we learn how to maintain our equipment, we have a better knowledge of its operation, allowing us to operate it effectively. The maintenance field is like infinite. Every day is different, each day brings its own surprise, and as a maintenance engineer we have to elaborate a plan for fixing and repairing equipments as fast as possible, since the flow never stops in the wastewater plant.

In the laboratory, under a laboratory technician or a chemist, we learn how to analyze our process treatment and understand the proper operation of it. Since our plant process treatment is design based on our human digesting system, everything in our treatment process is natural/biological. The use of chemical is only to improve equipment function and longevity. The use of hypochlorite/bisulfate is needed as we have the duty to make sure that our final produce is release to the environment without damaging or arming the people, the nature, and properties.

2. What combination of education, vocational training, apprenticeship, experience, and/or skill did you obtain in order to be qualified and selected for your job?

I came through the community development 9910 public service trainee/pre-apprenticeship program. In order to be selected I had to possess a high-school diploma or GED, take an English, math, and mechanical aptitude test, and then take an interview for the position.

Then, during my pre-apprenticeship tenure, I took the local 39 stationary engineer apprenticeship test to be eligible to become an apprentice which I successfully passed and that led me to my current position. As an apprentice I am attending school at the Local 39 training center, where they teach me different skills and trade in relation with our job.

3. What do you like best about your job?

What I like the best about my job is that it is always changing, never boring. This is a field of constant learning. Every day is a new challenge.

4. Please tell us about the projects and activities you have enjoyed most in your work in the water/wastewater field, and what made them rewarding,

Special projects, sedimentation tank and clarifier rebuilding's, digester cleaning, bio-diesel program startup. It feels really good to be able to tell myself that I was a part of it. Taking pride in what I have accomplished. Where there was no hope, we brought ourselves up to the challenge and made it happen and accomplished it against the odds.

But the fact itself to be working at the wastewater plant is rewarding, thinking that we are protecting our citizens and Mother Nature without anyone understanding what we really do. We are some of the few people that contribute to it and have the privilege to do it.

5. What qualities and capabilities are needed in order for a person in your area of expertise to be successful in the water/wastewater industry?

Stay humble, come with an open mind, open eyes, open ears, and an empty stomach. Even when we think we know it all, we never do in wastewater. There is always something to learn for who is willing to do so. Being social and building strong and professional relationship with your co-workers is a must-have and must-do.

6. Do you have any advice for an individual who is considering pursuing a career in your field in the water/wastewater industry?

Make sure you know what you are getting into, if you can do it, you will enjoy it.