



MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Jimmy L. Montgomery

Organization: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission – San Francisco Water Department – City Distribution Division – Machine Shop

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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 type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Mechanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Distribution | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

1. Please describe the work you do:

In our Machine Shop, we fabricate and recondition parts with vertical mills, lathes, grinders, drill presses, punch press, band-saw, heat treat oven, etc., using a variety of measuring tools and hand tools.

We also do maintenance, for example assisting plumbers by securing and penetrating water mains, overhauling pumps, reconditioning valves, and assisting engineers with pump set-up and alignments.

We also do preventive maintenance. We align pumps to motors, perform vibration tests, check lubrication, and check noises.

What we have here is a maintenance machine shop. There probably aren't many in the Bay Area, because the nature of machine shops has changed. Parts are being made differently; there is a lot of computerization.

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?

In our high school, we had a machine shop where I learned to use tools. Later I went to Laney College, which had a vocational training program in this area. I talked to my instructor and told him that I wanted to go into a trainee or apprenticeship program. I wanted to learn and make money. He told me to keep coming to class, that companies came to Laney College to look for employees, so that even if the jobs I was offered didn't pay much, I could get my foot in the door. In 1974 I was hired by a company in Hayward as a trainee. My first choice would have been a formal apprenticeship, but this was a more informal training program. After this, I had a variety of experiences in different shops, including working for Pak-Master Manufacturing, Diablo Machine Manufacturing, Eaton's Manufacturing, and FM Industries. For a period I also had my own business. I have worked for the City since 1998.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I like the fact that when you have to figure out how to make a part or fix a piece of equipment it exercises your brain. You pull equipment apart, figure out what's wrong with it, and fix the part or make a part. You keep your brain strong. It strengthens your ability to adapt in any part of your life.

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,

I like overhauling large water pumps. After the job is completed, you get to see it work. It's kind of a thrill especially with big motor, when you fix it up and after you fix it, it works. We have some big pumps with 1500 horse-power motors.

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.

You need a strong machining and mechanical background. You need to be able to maintain your concentration. You need to stay focused to avoid mistakes and stay productive. In a shop like ours, you also need to be able to work with different types of people.

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

I advise young people to take basic math and geometry in school. If there are metal or woodshops available in your school, try it out.