



MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Kevin Samuels

Organization: San Jose Water Company

Job Category (Check one below):

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

1. Please describe the work you do:

As a Senior Control Technician, my job involves many different tasks. The main focus is installing, maintaining and repairing instrumentation and SCADA telemetric equipment. I also work with supervisors and control room personnel to input new parameters into the SCADA system and identify malfunctions at two filter plants and over 100 distribution stations.

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?

My career in electronics started with a six year enlistment in the U.S. Navy. After two years of electronics classes, spanning from basic electronics and electricity to radar systems, I spent the next four years maintaining and operating a guided missile control system. After my career in the Navy, I spent three years working as an engineering technician for a company that manufactures electronic warfare systems. I believe the combination of my education and work history gave me a solid foundation in electronics knowledge and confidence to troubleshoot and analyze sophisticated control systems. Other skills I obtained that qualify me for my job are the use of test equipment, soldering, interpreting schematics and being safety conscious.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I like the variety of work that I perform for my position as well as the challenge of repairing critical equipment. I also enjoy the freedom to design and build new systems to fit the changing needs of the company.

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

One project I enjoyed was designing, building and installing a fuel alarm system for the standby diesel generators. This was my first responsibility in the department and presented me with a few challenges. After a few modifications, I managed to build and implement systems that brought the company into compliance with county standards and are still in use.

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?

In my opinion, there are a few different combinations of skill sets that a person could possess to be a successful control technician. There are a few fundamentals that are critical though;

- knowledge of basic electronics and electrical theory
- the ability to read schematics and technical manuals
- the ability to use a variety of test equipment
- the ability to use a variety of power and hand tools
- the ability to isolate failures/troubleshoot
- the ability to work safely around hazardous voltage

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

I would advise someone who is targeting the position of control systems technician to be proficient in the skills I listed above. They should also have a couple years of hand-on experience as a technician in a related field.