

MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: David S. Salazar

Organization: East Bay Municipal Utility District



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 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:

I maintain the fresh water distribution system, including: filter plants, regulators, rate controls, reservoirs, and pumping plants.

I am responsible for the repair, overhaul, and installation of district equipment and facilities including the fabrication and machining of the rotating elements of pumps, regulators, and all appurtenances to the operation of the distribution system. These require skills like machining, welding, rigging, mechanics, engineering, and math.

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 education started in junior high with the introduction of metal shop. We learned the use of hand tools, sheet metal fabrication, machining and welding (primarily gas welding). This continued into high school when I was in a R.O.P. machine shop training program with 2 years outside work experience. After achieving 10 years journey level status in the machining trade, I entered an apprenticeship in the millwright trade. This was a trade dedicated to the maintenance and installation of machinery and equipment.

3. What do you like best about your job?

Working in the field. Also the ability to problem-solve and repair a piece of equipment without all the comforts of being in a shop. Basically making do with what you have with you at the time.

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

Teamwork. Success in any job or career depends on your ability to work with others, respect their views and come to terms that things will not always be perfect. Some of the projects that I most enjoyed are emergency repairs or replacements such as bringing an old pumping plant to life or building a temporary facility.

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?

SKILL, SKILL, SKILL, you need to know your trade, and with that comes work ethic. You also need to have confidence in your abilities, not arrogance. And know your limitations--heavy industry can be very dangerous at times, so do not bite off more than you can chew.

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

Patience--don't expect to earn big money right away. That will come with experience. If you pay attention to those who know your craft, you will learn valuable skills, and if a good work ethic is something you don't possess, get one fast.