

MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Gabe Snook

Organization: Napa Sanitation 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Machinist/Mechanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Collections | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

1. Please describe the work you do:

I am a Grade III Operator with the District. At least one day a week I run the control panel, directing staff on what tasks to work on for that day. Also contacting Staff as needed to put out fires. On other days I could be doing our daily checks of pumps, meters and other equipment. We have projects going all the time that we throw our spare time at. Recently, I have been tasked to do more clerical tasks. I also run our chemical program which includes ordering and budgeting.

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?

As for education, I am a high school graduate with some college courses under my belt, mostly in wastewater. To qualify for my job I had to pass the State of California Grade III wastewater exam and have 3 years of experience as a Grade II.

3. What do you like best about your job?

Number one would have to be the new technology that is becoming available. Being able to run the plant from my smartphone is amazing. Another thing I like is knowing that a community needs my services to not just take care of their wastes but also to protect the receiving waters.

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,

A project I worked on was putting together our pump station emergency bypass plan. The reward in that was I got to give a presentation to our Board of Directors. The one single thing I have enjoyed the most is working with the community via the Earth Day celebration booth and giving tours of our plant, especially the tours for elementary school students. They make it fun and rewarding.

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 to be able to communicate, multi-task, be organized and be reliable. With these tools it makes the job easier.

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

This is a very rewarding career. If you put in the time and effort, it is worth it in the end. Study, study and then study some more for tests. Gather as much information and experience you can.