

West Valley Sanitation District Campbell, CA

I. Presenter: Kelvin Hatchett, Operations Supervisor

II. Mission-Critical Job Category: Wastewater Collections

III. Treatment Plant Characteristics:

- Wastewater Collections
- 28 employees
- 108,000 customers served

IV. Nature of the job

We clean wastewater and sewer lines and storm drains throughout Santa Clara County. West Valley Sanitation District is a special district that is affiliated with Santa Clara County. The crew works from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. They get their job assignments in the morning and go out in the field and fix clogged sewer lines and clean storm drains, and return at the end of the day and complete their paperwork. We use tough books which are rugged laptops. The supervisor loads the tough books in the morning with job assignment and the staff takes them out in the field.

V. Why is this work important for operational reliability?

Wastewater collections is important because we keep the lines clean, which protects the environment and the public, which is crucial and why we do it.

VI. Education and experiences that will help students prepare for career technical education

An ability to use computers used to not be important, but now it is part of the job, so computer skills are essential. We recently held a computer operations class for our employees to help build their computer skills. Writing skills are very important. We have to keep our documentation on file for 5 years, so if I have to refer to a problem that happened 4 ½ years ago, I have to be able to go back to the document and understand what occurred, so having the ability to communicate verbally and in writing is necessary in this job. Basic math knowledge, such as measurements and percentages are also important. Each situation is different, so problem-solving skills are useful as well as safety training.

VII. Type of education or experience that would be useful

Construction experience, plumbing, and mechanical experience are all useful in our work. We maintain our own vehicles, so mechanical aptitude and experience with tools is always helpful.

VIII. What do you like about your job?

- Salary/benefits
- Job security
- Interesting work/opportunity to learn
- Work outside – We live in a beautiful area
- Service to the community
- Interesting work/opportunity to learn
- Enjoy working in a team
- Work/life balance