



MISSION-CRITICAL PROFILE

Name: Tom Hanlon

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

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 work on manufacturing and designing tools, fixtures, and parts from raw stock and sheetmetal. I also repair and rebuild machine tools, pumps, valves, alternators, motors, and hydraulic and pneumatic equipment. Machinists assist plumbers, gatemen, welders, electricians, stationary engineers and carpenters. We also assist in making water system upgrades and repairs for the San Francisco Water Department.

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 high school I took courses in woodshop and metal shop. We learned how to solder, and do sheetmetal work. Even in junior high school and summer camp we had a chance to work with tools. In the tenth 10th grade we were working with simple tools, making doll houses or other craft projects. I completed a 4-year apprenticeship and two years of college in machine tool technology. I had 20 years of experience before starting to work for the City of San Francisco.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I like the wide variety of jobs that need to be accomplished and the people I work with on a daily basis.

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 have liked rebuilding valves and pumping systems that were installed over 100 years ago and making them operational again.

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 have patience and the desire to learn something new every day. To be a good machinist you must be a problem- solver and learn new techniques on a daily basis to be proficient.

A strong mathematics background is a must.

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

Learn mathematics and how to work with your hands. It would be helpful if kids today had more opportunities to learn to work with tools. I have seen companies that sell tool provide little kits with tools, and set up little events in their parking lots to let children have that experience. It would be helpful if more schools and companies did this, providing appropriate projects for different age levels.