



Cutting Edge Learning

Water Treatment and Distribution Operators Career Path Training Programs



The Water School
P.O. Box 5384 101 Hospital Dr
Sonora CA 95376
559-760-0576

About the Water-School

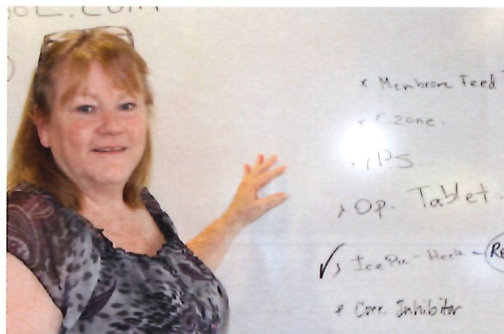
The Water – School was founded by Steve and Lorraine Christianson in 2011. The program has successfully trained and placed skilled operators in rewarding careers all around California.

Steve Christianson



Steve Christianson holds an MBA in Environmental Management specializing in Human Resources. His diverse back ground includes serving as a General Manager as well as teaching at Columbia College and serving as an industry liaison representing students, Community Colleges and Universities, as well as employers. Steve holds a D-2 and T-2 and is a small system expert.

Lorraine Christianson



Lorraine Serves as the Director of Student Learning. She is a Subject Matter Expert Instructor as well as a Curriculum Development Specialist. The Christianson's have developed a learning system which boasts a 95% pass rate on the state exams verses the normal of a 50-60% pass rate. Lorraine is a certified D-2, T-2 operator and has recently passed her T-3.

We teach in a new way! Small classes with individual attention utilizing the latest technology. You now have the choice of being in class, online live or learning out of our state of the art educational portal.

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About The Industry

Operators operate the equipment in water treatment plants in order to purify drinking water, remove domestic and industrial pollutants and solids from the water, and return clean water. Clean, safe water is essential for life and good health. Water treatment plants remove impurities, solids, organisms, chemicals, and toxins from water so that it is safe for people, animals, and the environment. Water plants treat water and distribute it to customers. Using modern technology, water treatment plants help provide clean water for use in homes and industries, help prevent disease, protect fish and wildlife from pollution, and protect the environment.

Water plant operators run the equipment and control the processes that clean and treat water at treatment plants. The exact duties of operators depend on the size of the plant. In small plants, one person may run and service the equipment, make repairs, perform tests, and keep records. In large plants, with many employees, operators monitor only one process with multiple pieces of equipment. They may have titles that describe the work they do.

Water entering a treatment plant goes through several processes that eliminate critical pollutants. Operators monitor meters and gauges that tell whether the equipment is operating correctly.

Water treatment plant workers operate and maintain the pumps, engines, and generators that move the water through processes. Operators ensure that the water has been properly disinfected. They collect samples of water and perform routine laboratory tests. Water treatment operators keep a log of operations. They record meter and gauge readings, and laboratory data, and fill out operational reports.

Water treatment operators sometimes work during an emergency. Operators are trained in emergency management response and use special safety equipment and procedures to protect public health and the facility.

Water treatment plants must operate by specific regulatory standards which are reflected in the treatment plant permit. Operators must know and abide by the guidelines of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The list of contaminants regulated by these statutes has grown over time.

Hours and Earnings

Water workers can earn high wages without a college degree. As an operator progresses, many earn six figure incomes after several years. Water treatment plant operators usually work eight to twelve hours a day, forty or more hour after a week. Since many of these plants need to have an operator present 24 hours a day, operators may be required to work different shifts. They may rotate holiday and weekend work. In an emergency, such as an equipment failure, they often work overtime, increasing their income.

Earnings vary with the size of the plant and its location; and the duties and skills of the operator, as well as their education, experience, and certification. Fringe benefits for water treatment plant operators are like those of other city, county, special district employees. Most operators receive overtime pay and shift differential for working during "off-hours". They also receive paid

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vacations and holidays, sick leave, life insurance, dental and medical benefits, deferred compensation and pensions on retirement. Benefits vary with each employer.

Education and Training

Because of the complex instrumentation and computer-controlled equipment now in use in many water plants, employers seek applicants with at least a high school diploma. Educational requirements are increasing as treatment plants become more complex to meet new water quality standards and pollution control regulations.

Certification and Licenses

You must be certified to work in water. In California, The State Water Resources Control Board regulates the industry and the skill sets required for Water Operators. The SWRCB has 5 levels of certification for both Distribution and Treatment. Successful student will have 13 month educational track walking them through 4 state exams, T-1.D-1, T-2 and D-2. After 2 years of experience on a rated facility, a student can test for grade 3.

Every state has national standards for water treatment written by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All fifty states require operators to pass a certification examination to show they are capable of overseeing various treatment processes. Higher levels of certification qualify the operator for overseeing a wider variety of treatment processes.

Desirable Traits and Skills:

Water treatment plant operators should have mechanical and scientific aptitude. Manual dexterity and attention to detail are important. They should be able to plan, direct, and control a work program. The ability to get along well with co-workers will make the job easier. Operators should be able to handle routine work with equipment, and should be able to switch easily from one task to another. Most job duties associated with water and wastewater treatment can be adapted for workers with disabilities. Persons should contact their school or employment counselors, their state office of vocational rehabilitation, or their state department of labor to explore fully their individual needs and requirements as well as the requirements.

Where Employed

Water treatment plant and systems operators held over 106,550 jobs throughout the United States in 2006. Most worked for local governments, others for state and federal governments. Others worked for private water, sewage, and sanitary utilities and services companies, which increasingly provide operation and management services to local governments on a contract basis.

Employment Outlook

The employment of water operators is expected to grow by 16.2 percent through the year 2014—an increase of around 15,000 jobs. An additional 33,000 positions are also expected to open due to replacement needs. A growing population and an expanding economy will increase demands

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for water and wastewater treatment services. New plants constructed to meet this demand will employ more operators.

In addition, the trend toward dependence on private water and wastewater treatment services should create jobs for operators in companies that offer these services. Workers with formal schooling in water quality and wastewater technology will have an edge over other job seekers both in employment and advancement because of the increasing complexity of the equipment. Employment in this field is also steady because the treatment of water and wastewater is essential for every community. Also, since the Clean Water Act in 1972, more operators with 30 years of experience are in place to retire leaving openings for those who are ambitious to enter the field and promote new employees and skill sets.

The Program

- 13 month Hybrid Program available in class and online for student flexibility.
- We tutor and teach you the skills to pass the Treatment 1 and 2 as well as the Distribution 1 and 2 State Exams.
- Individual learning program allow a flexible learning schedule around “life”!

What are you waiting for?

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