



#### Erik Frederiksen

Oakland County Water Resources

## What does a typical day look like in this role?

This is a wet weather response unit. Each day we are either finishing repairs, cleaning, and reporting sample data from the last storm or we are preparing for the next storm. This includes maintenance of the many pumps, piping, valves, and other process equipment used to retain, disinfect, and dewater combined sewer overflows.

#### What is the typical work setting?

Mechanical rooms containing pumps, piping, chemical tanks, screening equipment, HVAC equipment, electrical equipment, and other support systems on sub levels of the facility. Laboratory work during rain events. Outdoor work will involve underground structures.

#### What are the usual work hours?

Dry weather is a 40 hour week M-F. Wet weather response requires 24/7 365 coverage. Crews work multiple 12 hour shifts.

## What are the most challenging aspects of this career?

Managing people and managing the weather.

## What are the most rewarding aspects of this career?

Protecting the Environment.

**Education Requirements** 

### What level of education is typically required?

Typically just a high school degree is needed. Advanced degrees are not required. A good work ethic and eagerness to learn is required.

### What specific fields of study are most relevant?

Any mechanical trades, plumbing, electrical, etc.

# Any specific tools that professionals must be proficient?

No. In time workers become proficient with specific software and various specialty tools and equipment used.

### What soft skills are imporant?

Troubleshooting equipment failures, adapting/problem solving. Understanding the process and managing time efficiently.

"Well, you can fight Mother Nature but she can hit much harder than you."

When we have days and sometimes weeks of rains, floods, and power outages the hard work and training pays off. We come out the other side of it successfully.