



WRRF Operator

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Resource Commission

What does a typical day look like in this role?

Operators make rounds to monitor equipment, test samples, and troubleshoot problems as they arise. We make adjustments as needed to keep the facility within permit limits and operating as intended.

What is the typical work setting?

Generally it's 70% outside to 30% inside. An operator spends the majority of the time outside working the plant but also gets to spend time inside monitoring and running tests. Conditions vary with weather but buildings are generally climate controlled.

What are the usual work hours?

Most facilities are staffed 24/7 and work in 8-hour shifts. Overtime may become available to keep the facility staffed when others take time off.

What are the most challenging aspects of this career?

Being able to think and adapt quickly to any challenges the plant may give you at any time.

What are the most rewarding aspects of this career?

Knowing you're helping with such an important part of the water cycle.

Education Requirements

What level of education is typically required?

Typically just a high school degree is needed, however, higher certified operators require a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

What specific fields of study are most relevant?

Environmental science or hands-on mechanical

What technical skills are required?

It's important to be able to understand trends of data as well as do calculations to make process adjustments.

What soft skills are important?

Understanding how things work and being able to diagnose and troubleshoot

"No matter what happens to the economy, people will always need wastewater treatment. We are recession proof." - Brian Welch

It's common to meet people who have made lifelong careers in wastewater, many of them moving up from trainee and eventually to supervision.