

Velasco Drainage District — Pump Station Sandblaster / Painter (II)

Position Overview The Pump Station Sandblaster/Painter (II) is a mid-level technical role responsible for the preservation and corrosion control of Velasco Drainage District (VDD) infrastructure. Working under general supervision, this position performs advanced surface preparation, operates industrial abrasive blasting systems, and applies high-performance industrial coating systems (including epoxies and urethanes). Beyond surface preservation, this role supports light mechanical maintenance on pumps and gates, maintains facility cleanliness, and participates in emergency storm response and on-call rotations.

Primary Responsibilities

- **Abrasive Blasting & Surface Preparation:** Independently operate and troubleshoot industrial blast pots to achieve specific surface profiles (Near-White, Commercial Blast). Select appropriate media (sand, coal slag, steel grit) based on substrates and coatings, and lead containment setup to protect surrounding areas.
- **Coating Application & Chemistry:** Accurately mix multi-part industrial coatings, managing pot life, induction times, and ambient conditions. Apply protective primers and paints using brushes, rollers, pressure pots, conventional sprayers, and airless spray systems to large pumps and discharge pipes.
- **Composite & Mechanical Maintenance:** Perform hands-on application of Belzona composite polymers for structural surface rebuilding and backing up pipeline welding repairs. Assist with light mechanical maintenance, including rebuilding pumps, replacing valves, servicing seals, and performing routine care on compressors, blast hoses, and spray rigs.
- **Facility & Asset Preservation:** Maintain a clean, code-compliant paint locker, manage hazardous spill prevention, and monitor paint and media inventory. Perform groundskeeping, general structural maintenance, and deep cleaning of engine rooms and pump bays.
- **Fleet Management:** Perform daily pre-trip inspections (fluids, tires, lighting) on assigned company vehicles, maintain accurate mileage and service logs, and keep mobile workspaces organized and stocked.

Qualifications & Experience

- **Education:** High School Diploma or equivalent preferred; equivalent practical experience considered.
- **Experience:** 2–4 years of industrial sandblasting and painting experience, ideally within utility, municipal, or heavy industrial settings. Prior experience in mechanical repair, construction, or heavy equipment operation is preferred.
- **Licensure:** Valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL) required, or ability to obtain a CDL within 90 days of employment.
- **Technical Skills:** Proven proficiency in operating pneumatic air spray systems, industrial blast equipment, and power tools. Basic mechanical skills for equipment rebuilding and a willingness to undergo advanced hydraulic training.

Working Conditions & Physical Requirements

- **Physical Demands:** Heavy physical effort required, including pushing, pulling, climbing vertical ladders/scaffolding, and lifting 60+ lbs regularly. Must be able to perform manual labor such as shoveling, fence repair, and sandbagging during flood events.
- **Environmental Exposure:** Requires working outdoors in extreme heat, cold, rain, and high humidity. Frequent work in confined spaces (subterranean pump bays, wet wells) and elevated platforms with exposure to dust, chemical solvents, herbicides, and slippery surfaces.
- **Safety & PPE:** Mandatory compliance with all OSHA and District safety protocols, including full use of fall-arrest harnesses, chemical suits, blast hoods, and supplied-air or air-purifying respirators.

Schedule & Emergency Response

- **Schedule Flexibility:** Must be available to work variable shifts (Days, Evenings, Nights), including weekends, holidays, and extended overtime during flood emergencies.
- **On-Call Rotation:** Participation in an on-call rotation (every third week or as needed) with a mandatory 30-minute response time to the District area.
- **Emergency Cross-Training:** Mandatory willingness to train as an emergency call-out coordinator to route dispatches, interpret alarm telemetry, and execute high-water response protocols.