CLASS TITLE: PIPE LOCATING MACHINE OPERATOR

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS

Under supervision, locates underground water mains, service pipe lines, control valves and other underground fittings that are part of the municipal water distribution system using a pipe locating machine and locator equipment, and performs related duties as required.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Reads work orders to assess work required and to determine most appropriate work methods to use.
- Assembles and transports locating equipment and supplies to job sites.
- Operates a pipe locating machine to trace and locate underground water mains, service pipes and other fittings to determine excavation points for repairs and to assist in the location of service pipes utilized in the repair and installation of water meters.
- Marks the position of pipe installations, connections, buffalo boxes, curb boxes, control valves and or meter vaults.
- Locates and measures water service pipes to maintain accurate records of the municipal water distribution system.
- Reads plats, atlas or other specifications to assist in determining the appropriate location of water mains, service pipes and control valves.
- Prepares work activity reports.
- Communicates and provides general information to customers regarding water meter related issues, as required.
- Terminates and restores water services, as required.
- Installs and repairs 2” and above water meters flange to flange, as required.

NOTE: The list of essential duties is not intended to be inclusive; there may be other duties that are essential to particular positions within the class.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Education, Training, and Experience

- A combination of education, training and experience suitable to obtain a plumber’s license as issued by either the State of Illinois or the City of Chicago, plus two years of work experience in water main construction and/or the maintenance and repair of underground water mains, service pipes, and related fittings.
- Preference may be given to individuals with pipe locating machine operating experience.

Licensure, Certification, or Other Qualifications

- A valid plumber’s license issued by either the State of Illinois or the City of Chicago is required.
- A valid State of Illinois driver’s license is required.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Exposure to outdoor weather conditions.
• Exposure to loud noise, fumes or dust, oily or wet environment
• Exposure to hazardous conditions (e.g., construction sites)
• Work performed in cramped or confined locations
• Work performed above or below ground level

EQUIPMENT
• Standard tools and equipment of the plumbing trade (e.g., hammer, screwdriver, pipe cutter, pipe threading equipment, welding equipment, rodding equipment, torches, metal detector, air compressor)
• Measuring tools (e.g., tape measure, ruler, calipers, measuring wheels)
• Personal protective equipment (e.g., hard hat, shoes, glasses, gloves)
• Safety devices or equipment (e.g., cones, barricades, metal plates)
• Standard office equipment (e.g., telephone, printer, hand-held computer, digital camera)

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS
• Some lifting (up to 25 pounds) is required
• Ability to walk and stand for extended periods of time
• Ability to quickly bend, stretch, twist, or reach out with one’s body arms, and/or legs
• Ability to climb staircases, ladders, and/or step stools
• Ability to access difficult to enter spaces (e.g., basements, crawl spaces, cramped quarters)
• Ability to operate applicable hand tools, power tools, and locating equipment

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND OTHER WORK REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge
Moderate knowledge of:
• *plumbing principles, theory, methods, and procedures
• *maintenance and repair methods used for underground water mains, service pipes, buffalo boxes, meter vaults, and other fittings
• *applicable hand and power tools
• *plumbing safety and code standards, including OSHA standards
• *applicable safety principles, methods, practices, and procedures
• *use of safety equipment and protective gear

Some knowledge of:
• reading and interpreting blueprints
• municipal water distribution system and water metering practices
• electrical grounding practices

Knowledge of applicable City and department policies, procedures, rules, and regulations
Skills

- ACTIVE LEARNING - Understand the implications of new information for both current and future problem-solving and decision-making
- ACTIVE LISTENING - Give full attention to what other people are saying, take time to understand the points being made, ask questions as appropriate, and not interrupt at inappropriate times
- CRITICAL THINKING - Use logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions, or approaches to problems
- EQUIPMENT SELECTION - Determine the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job

Abilities

- COMPREHEND ORAL INFORMATION - Listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences
- SPEAK - Communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand
- RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS - Tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong
- REASON TO SOLVE PROBLEMS - Apply general rules to specific problems to produce answers that make sense

Other Work Requirements

- PERSISTENCE - Persist in the face of obstacles on the job
- INITIATIVE - Demonstrate willingness to take on job challenges
- STAMINA - Demonstrate energy and stamina to accomplish work tasks
- DEPENDABILITY - Demonstrate reliability, responsibility, and dependability and fulfill obligations
- ATTENTION TO DETAIL - Pay careful attention to detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks

All employees of the City of Chicago must demonstrate commitment to and compliance with applicable state and federal laws, and City ordinances and rules; the City’s Ethics standards; and other City policies and procedures.

The City of Chicago will consider equivalent foreign degrees, accreditations, and credentials in evaluating qualifications.

* May be required at entry.

City of Chicago
Department of Human Resources
February, 2013