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People BEHIND THE WATER

Leo Williams, Treatment Plant Operations Superintendent, Rural, Utah

Leo Williams has been working in the water industry for twenty-nine years now. But even with that level of experience, when asked what qualities it takes to best do his job, he says, "It takes someone who is a good listener, a person who can keep an open mind and realize that every problem doesn't just have one solution."

As an Operations Superintendent in the town of Rural, Utah, just outside of Salt Lake City, Leo's work is very much about finding solutions. Leo and his crew are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to fix and maintain 200 miles of water main and more than 100 different water system sites. "You need to be the kind of person who at one o'clock in the morning in the middle of winter gets the call and wants to go to work."

Fixing everything from pipe leaks and valves to electrical and instrumentation equipment, Leo and team make sure that the water infrastructure is working at its optimum level. This work becomes especially demanding during seasonal changes when the ground moves, causing water mains to break under the strain.

For his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and leadership, Leo was awarded the Rural Utah Operator of the Year Award in 2004 from his peers. While this kind of recognition is satisfying, he's most gratified by his role as a mentor. "For me, after almost thirty years in this industry, the most rewarding part of my job is watching my younger workers grow both professionally and personally. Seeing them gain the kind of passion that I have for the water industry is a very special reward."



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