

Trades and Maintenance workers in health care

F A C T S H E E T

HEU trades and maintenance workers are responsible for the safe and continuous operation of the health facility's infrastructure, equipment, energy and plant systems including steam, hot water, medical gases, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, oxygen, nitrous oxide and life support systems. There are about 70 job classifications in this occupational area.

OUR WORK MATTERS!

WHAT THEY DO:

- ensure safe water drainage and a safe water supply for the entire facility including toilets, hand-washing stations, showers, bathtubs and kitchens; and monitor incoming city water for quality control
- maintain and operate boilers, pumps and all related equipment
- keep all physical and emergency backup systems up and running
- maintain isolated ventilation systems to contain air-borne diseases
- ensure continuous supply of electricity; test and maintain equipment, communications systems, elevators, lighting, fire alarms, respiratory systems
- provide support for IT systems; build and maintain automation systems; smoke and fire control testing

WHY IT MATTERS:

- hospitals cannot function without the skilled staff required to keep critical systems up and running
- the physical safety of patients, staff and the visiting public depend on a fully equipped and trained trades and maintenance team
- these workers are the frontline responders to all major emergencies such as building floods, hazardous spills, natural disasters, electrical failures and more
- in-house trades and maintenance staff have extensive knowledge regarding the complexities of the facility's infrastructure, as well as the ability to maintain and update blueprints for safe systems operation

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

- most facilities do not have the resources required to ensure ongoing preventative maintenance
- wages are seriously out of step with the industry norm which has sparked a retention and recruitment crisis
- reliance on more costly outside contractors, who do not have the working knowledge of the facility's infrastructure and operating systems, creates additional workload and safety issues for in-house trades and maintenance workers --and results in higher costs for taxpayers

Trades and Maintenance workers make up 6% of HEU's membership.

cook • baker • biomedical electronics • technologist • groundskeeper • maintenance supervisor • maintenance worker • maintenance worker (charge) • maintenance worker (plant system repairs) • radiographic processor • maintainer • boiler operator • boiler operator supervisor • power engineer • chief power engineer • power engineer supervisor • air condition mechanic • carpenter • electrician • elevator operator • fitter • fitter/gas fitter (cross connection) • head air condition mechanic • head carpenter • head electrician • head fitter • head laundry mechanic • head machinist • head painter • head plumber • head plasterer • head refrigeration mechanic • head welder • laundry mechanic • machinist • painter • plasterer • plumber • plumber/gas fitter (cross connection), refrigeration mechanic • welder • among others...



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