



Volunteer at the Underfall Boatyard: Hydraulic Pump Operator

Previous experience of operating hydraulic pumps is not necessary as full training will be given

Underfall Yard was built in the 1880s as a purpose-built docks maintenance facility. The Hydraulic Power House was completed in 1887 and powered a network of locks, cranes, swing bridges and much more. The 1907 hydraulic pumps were decommissioned in 2010 and are now run regularly by volunteers for demonstration purposes. Underfall Yard is not a museum. It is a working environment and the Trust intends to conserve, restore and maintain the historic machines to a working standard.

Purpose of Role

- Safely operate, monitor performance and maintain the 1907 hydraulic pumps
- Provide a friendly and welcoming presence at Underfall Yard Visitor Centre
- Share information with visitors about the yard and the hydraulic pumps
- Oversee the health and safety of visitors through familiarity with the risks posed by operating the hydraulic pumps

Anticipated Time Contribution

Hydraulic pump demonstrations require between 90 minutes to 2 hours, which can include but is not limited to:

Set-up, safety checks & completion of paperwork	45 minutes
Pre-pump talk including briefing the public on safety	10 minutes
Pump run	20 minutes
Tidying-up, completion of paperwork	15 minutes

Demonstrations can take place 7 days a week during morning, afternoons and evenings.

Maintenance works to the pumps are carried out under the supervision of Underfall Yard Trust staff and normally take place during the working day. Time contribution tends to be between 1-3 hours per activity undertaken.

Main Activities or Duties

Learn how to safely operate the 1907 Hydraulic Pumps

Observe pumps during operation, identify irregularities and flag up maintenance needs

Adhere to protocols and keep a detailed log of operations

Demonstrate and explain the pumps to visitors

Carry out actions to ensure the safety of visitors (i.e. ensure visitors stay behind safety barriers when machinery is in operation)

Keep up-to-date by reading briefings and information regarding the boat yard business, upcoming events and activities to share with visitors

Keep a record of the number of people who visit and offer timely feedback to Underfall Yard Trust staff about any comments from visitors or H&S issues

What we are looking for

Enthusiasm for relevant subjects (Bristol, history, buildings, engineering, maritime industries, working with the public etc.). Although previous experience of operating hydraulic pumps is not necessary, we are particularly interested in hearing from individuals with experience in engineering, **machinery and “hands-on” experience.**

Reliable and a good team member

Friendly and approachable manner suitable to a visitor facing role

Ability to follow instructions

Good record keeping skills

Training

An induction will be given to the yard, including an overview of procedures and health and safety.

Training course on the operation of Hydraulic Pumps

Ongoing support from the Workshop Manager

Benefits

Learn the principles and maintenance of Edwardian machinery

Meet new people

Mileage allowance or travel expenses within agreed guidelines (as per volunteer handbook)

Opportunity to work as part of the team

Team events and trips

Notes

Hydraulic Pump Operator Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.