

News Post: 3/7/19

Wet Well Inspection at Rio Water Reclamation Plant

You don't have to be a firefighter to descend into deep, confined spaces! Water Services multi-skilled workers are often required to go above and beyond their typical duties to perform maintenance. Such was the case last week, at the Rio Water Reclamation Plant, where an influent



Looking inside the wet well to find suspected source of pump malfunction.

pump problem required diverting flows to the Rio WRP, while a staff member was lowered 30 feet down into the bottom of a wet well.

This area had never been inspected in the plant's 26-year history, requiring ten days of careful preparation to identify potential hazards and repair needs, such as trapped gasses and equipment failure. The Fire Department assisted with the double harness setup, and remained on standby, during the wet well entry.

It turned out, the needed repairs were able to be performed outside the wet well. While the conditional inspection was helpful, it serves as a reminder to incorporate safe access in all of our wet wells and vault designs for the future.