

PIPELINE

PIPING SYSTEMS INC.

PROCESS PIPING • PLUMBING • HVACR • BOILERS • FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS • ELECTRICAL • SPRINKLER INSPECTIONS

SPRING 2019

Piping Systems, Inc. Earns Renewal of "S" and "R" ASME/National Board Certification

In today's marketplace, quality and timeliness are paramount in business. We at Piping Systems, Inc. (PSI) are extremely aware of the pressures on our customers to provide goods and services at reasonable costs and of the highest quality. Our efforts to achieve authorization by the National Board and ASME has allowed all of our departments to streamline and focus on the details. Our fabrication shop and field technicians are required to improve their welding skills and achieve certification by nationally accepted standards. This translates to higher quality welding and pipefitting skills. And a higher quality job performed for you, our client.

For more than 35 years, PSI has held at least one type of certification through the ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) or the National Board. Once again, PSI was granted a renewal of the ASME "S" stamp and the National Board "R" stamp.

Holding the "R" stamp means that PSI has been authorized by the National Board to repair boilers and pressure vessels. Holding the "S" stamp means PSI has been authorized by the ASME to manufacture boilers and power piping. Undergoing an extensive quality control review process by the National Board in conjunction with our authorized inspection agency, The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co., PSI has the capability to offer additional services as requested by our customers.

Thorough On-Site Review

Our on-site tri-annual review was recently concluded. In attendance were: Mr. Marshall Chandler, Supervisor Code Services, Mr. Harold Greer, Authorized Inspector, Hartford Steam Boiler Code Services and Ms. Rubia Garcia, National Board Team Leader.

This review process led and witnessed by Ms. Rubia Garcia, is

very thorough. The practical portion consists of a demonstration of a pressure component partially assembled. Unlike prior reviews that required our welder to only be on-site for questions, for this review, the Team Leader required our welder to weld a partial root and hot pass on our demonstration piece under her watchful eye.

Before and after the actual welding, the Team Leader asked questions of our welder to determine his complete knowledge of our welding procedures. During past reviews the Team Leader would examine the welds in the presence of our welder, however, our welder was not required to demonstrate knowledge of the welding technique. During this review, technical questions were asked relating to our Welding Procedure Specification (WPS); where to find the welding rod type and AWS (American Welding Standard) number, who purchases the "code" wire and how it is to be maintained, what type of inert gas is used and how the flow is measured, what welding position (if any) is referenced in the drawings and whether or not the welder is qualified for those positions.

In other words, we were required to demonstrate not only our "theory" but also our practical work.

During the review, a complete understanding of our Quality Control Manual is expected and must be demonstrated in addition to a working knowledge of the ASME Code sections and the NBIC (National Boiler Inspection Code).

For the second time, we had a female inspector, Ms. Rubia Garcia. She demonstrated a very thorough knowledge of her subject and she was a stickler for detail. It was nice to welcome her back to PSI!

Congratulations to everyone on the team, especially PSI's Michael Moreira, our QC Manager, and Fred Best who performed the welding.



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Land mass accounts for what percentage of the surface of the Earth?

Where On Earth?

- 1) The Tropic of Cancer is located:
 - a) north of the equator
 - b) south of the equator

- 2) New Zealand is:
 - a) west of the international date line
 - b) east of the international date line

- 3) The Faroe Islands belong to:
 - a) United Kingdom
 - b) Denmark

- 4) Land mass accounts for what percentage of the surface of the Earth?
 - a) 29%
 - b) 36%

- 5) Only one Canadian province borders the Great Lakes. Which one?
 - a) Ontario
 - b) Quebec

- 6) The world is divided into four major oceans. Some authorities consider there to be five. What is it called?
 - a) Antarctic Ocean
 - b) Southern Ocean

- 7) The world's largest lake is called:
 - a) Lake Superior
 - b) The Caspian Sea

—*Scientific American, Inc.*

Answers: 1) a; 2) b; 3) b; 4) a; 5) a; 6) Trick question. Both answers are correct; 7) b The Caspian Sea, located between Europe and Asia is referred to as a sea, but with no outlet, it is in fact a lake.

Coffee Aids In Kidney Disease Fight, According To Study

Among coffee's health benefits may be a reduced risk of death from kidney disease, according to the *Healthline* website.

A study recently written up in the journal *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* examined data from 4,863 Americans.

The subjects were divided into four groups. Group One consumed the amount of caffeine in one cup of iced tea per day. Group Two took caffeine equivalent to one cup of coffee per day. Group Three had one or two cups, and Group Four had multiple cups per day.

Subjects in Group Two, researchers found, had a 12 percent lower risk of dying from kidney disease. Group Three showed a 22 percent lower risk, and Group Four, which consumed the highest amount of caffeine per day, saw a 24 percent lower risk.

Scientists caution that caffeine poses other health risks, and patients on fluid-restricted diets should take coffee into account of their daily fluid intake. Cream, creamers, and syrups can also cause problems for people with kidney disease, including increased phosphorus and potassium levels. Check with your doctor, as always.



Our Worries About Technology

Science fiction films promote worries about Terminator-like robots waging war on humankind or artificial intelligence imprisoning us all in the Matrix, but in the real world, people have deep concerns about the role technology plays in our lives.

The team at *SafeHome.org* conducted a Privacy and Technology Survey of 1,019 people age 18 and older to determine where public opinion lies. Here are people's top concerns:

Smart devices being viewed through cameras	66%
Anti-viral software compromising personal data	57%
Companies using personal habits	49%
Personal data being monitored on social media	47%
Location tracking	41%
Smart car security system hacking	41%

Trading Places

A world-famous scientist was being driven to a university where he was scheduled to give a lecture. During the drive he complained to his chauffeur: "I'm not sure how much longer I can do this. I'm bored with giving the same lecture at every campus we visit."

"I have an idea," said the driver. "I've been listening from the back of the room each time you've given this lecture. I know the material well. Why don't we trade places today? I'll give your speech, and you can sit in the back of the room and observe."

"I'll take you up on that offer," replied the scientist. Before they arrived at their destination, the pair pulled into a rest area and traded clothes. The scientist then drove the rest of the way while the driver sat in the backseat reviewing the lecture notes.

The driver was able to pull off the lecture with no one in the audience aware of the deception. Several minutes into the Q&A portion of the presentation a student asked a rather complicated question. The scientist began to panic.

Yet the driver, standing confidently at the podium, maintained his composure as he said, "The answer to that question is so simple, I'm going to let my driver, seated in the back of the room, answer that."

A Refreshing Drink

Two friends set out for a difficult hike on a hot, sunny day.

After many hours of walking they reached a clearing and decided to take a break to have a snack and hydrate. One hiker had packed a frozen bottle of water. Over the course of their trek all but one chunk of the ice had melted, and the climber was able to enjoy a cool drink of water under the hot sun.

The second hiker had brought along a couple of plastic bottles of water purchased at the store. From being out in the day's heat, the water was much warmer than what the hiker wanted to drink. "May I have some of your ice?" she asked her friend.

"Certainly," her friend replied, but was unsuccessful in her attempts to break the piece of ice into smaller chunks. She finally turned to her friend and said, "Pour your water into this bottle over the ice. That should cool it off."

The friend did just that and was able to enjoy a refreshing drink. She began to think about what had just happened and realized that what she'd just experienced could also apply to life:

Sometimes you have to let time pass and bring about a thaw that makes it possible for you to enjoy things. Other times you need to let things cool off before they are of use to anyone. Then there are times when you might need to be more innovative in the way you approach a problem so everyone involved can benefit from the experience.

SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



Ensuring A Safe Workplace

A safe work environment is essential for a productive workplace. Employees shouldn't be afraid of getting hurt at work, nor should they fear being punished if they get hurt. Here are some ways to prevent such fears and to show you are concerned for your staff:

- Hold regular safety meetings to emphasize the importance of safety and reinforce safe behaviors.
- Discuss everything from ergonomics and parking lot safety to operating machinery and driving company cars.
- Make sure any safety equipment required for a job, such as goggles or wrist braces, is on site and being used.
- Don't overwork your employees. Fatigue makes people more accident-prone.
- Ensure that maintenance and janitorial services are adequate to guarantee a clean and obstacle-free working environment.
- If someone is injured on the job, review the guidelines and consider instituting new ones to prevent a similar accident from happening again.
- Encourage staff members to suggest safety improvements. Create a suggestion program just for this purpose.

Succeed In The Digital World

Today's workplace is digital. No matter what your job is, you've got to have some capacity for dealing with the technology that's permeating society. From the *Forbes* magazine website, check out these keys to keeping up:

- **Develop "digital fluency."** You don't have to become an expert at Blockchain or Bitcoin (whatever they are), but you should have a good working knowledge of what's happening with technology. Be ready to study up on the latest new things so you can ask intelligent questions and learn what's applicable to your career.
- **Sharpen your communication skills.** From email and text messaging to social media platforms, most of the new technology is about communication. Learn to write and speak clearly and concisely, but also creatively, no matter what your message is. You want your words to stand out, so make sure people can understand what you're trying to say.
- **Learn sales and marketing skills.** Even if you're not directly involved in sales, you should have a good understanding of what's needed in order for your organization to generate revenue and stay in business. That means figuring out how all the latest tech can help your sales and marketing people do their jobs better.
- **Be ready for change.** There seems to be a new tech tool coming out every week. You've got to be able to quickly adapt to changes in the digital world if you want to keep up. Be on the lookout for what's coming, and be ready to learn what's necessary to put those tools to work effectively.

"Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things."

—Theodore Levitt

Avoid Contractors Who Don't Follow Through

If you're currently in the market for construction services, the right contractor makes the all the difference in the world. It means the difference between a satisfying experience or a nightmare.

It's not easy to find and hire a good, quality contractor. There is more involved than doing a quick search, then calling and hiring the first one you come to. It is necessary to take the time to do the proper amount of research in order to hire the right contractor. Failing to do so can result in the loss of hundreds or even thousands of dollars due to lack of productivity, not to mention the headaches caused from the stress of time delays, cost overruns and having your business in disarray. Here are some tips:

- **Be sure you get more than one estimate for your job.**

Three is an industry standard. Yes, contractors will bid different prices for the same job, but make sure you are comparing apples to apples. Be sure that each bid contains exactly what you need for the job to be done right. If appropriate, arrange a pre-bid conference with prospective bidders; if they can't even come to your job site for a pre-bid, what will it be like once the work commences?

- **Make sure the contractors you are interested in have the proper licensing and insurance.**

And, that's not enough—you need to verify both. In addition to workers' comp insurance and auto liability, general liability and excess liability should be the appropriate amounts based on the size of the project.

- **Check references.** Be sure to ask if they were satisfied overall, if the project started and ended on time and within



budget, the ease of communications with the contractor, etc.

- **Make sure they have experience working in buildings or on projects similar to yours.** Different buildings and facilities have different needs. You want to be certain the contractor you choose will have similar experience to your project.

If you aren't sure what separates a good contractor from a bad contractor, then you run the risk of hiring someone who does shoddy work, overcharges for that shoddy work, or even worse, fails to finish the job causing you to start back at square one. Even if a job needs done yesterday, take the time to make sure you're getting what you'll be paying for.



We're doing our part!



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