

# Pump, compressor training keeps pace with jobsite demands

*Southern States Millwrights Regional Council*

Utilizing superior equipment to support the petrochemical industry is a must. Having an experienced, certified expert to properly operate that equipment is equally as important and the key to a productive jobsite. That's the premise Southern States Millwrights works from in its pump

and compressor training — an initiative launched in 2011 that continues to evolve and improve today.

“At our training centers throughout the South, we've accumulated the tools and equipment to simulate in-field conditions and service scenarios,” said Wayne Jennings,

executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern States Millwrights. “Our goal is to meet the needs of our contractors so that they can meet the needs of the project owner.”

Compressor training began as a level one, 80-hour reciprocal training program that addresses every level of

the compressor, from basic knowledge of compressors and how they work to disassembly and problem diagnosis to reassembly and exact specifications.

The program has evolved to include centrifugal training. This new program hit the ground running in Corpus Christi, Texas, when a contractor needed centrifugal compressor training quickly. The millwrights responded with a 20-hour journeyman upgrade class and a 40-hour apprentice class.

Compressors are usually one of the most important and expensive components of a plant, so having experts versed in this machinery is crucial to keeping systems running properly and profitably. When cared for correctly, the compressor offers a long service life and requires an efficient amount of energy to operate.

“Compressors have incredible potential for cost-effective, productive service,” Jennings said. “It's easy to see the benefit a trained, experienced millwright can provide to compressor maintenance and repair, and that's exactly the type of professional we are creating through our compressor training program.”

Gas and steam turbine training is also a priority for the millwrights. As trends emerge and standards evolve in the construction industry, training focuses on meeting challenges encountered on the jobsite. To ensure turbine experts are ready to work, a gas and steam turbine qualification program is held both locally and at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' International Training Center, which operates a turbine training facility with the most advanced equipment and tools available.

Pump training addresses repair, mechanical seal installation and troubleshooting. The class covers every aspect of ANSI and API overhung centrifugal pumps. Training focuses on the use of acrylic frame pumps, which allows technicians to see the inner dynamics of the equipment and to increase their understanding of not just how but also why a pump works.

“We believe it's crucial to recreate the conditions where the pump would fail so that our millwrights learn what is causing failures and also learn how to prevent the failure,” Jennings added.

In keeping pace with technology, millwrights are also getting time with the FARO Focus3D high-speed Terrestrial Laser Scanner. It creates a high-precision 3-D measurement, imaging, and comparison of parts and compound structures, and has multiple applications within the industry.

**For more information, visit [www.southernstatesmillwrights.org](http://www.southernstatesmillwrights.org), follow the council online or subscribe to its news service by texting SSMRC to 24587. ●**

## Adding Fuel to the Fire

**Precision and productivity is the standard work product delivered to the Oil and Gas Industry by Southern States Millwrights every day.**

**Hiring a contractor who employs Southern States Millwrights means:**

**Productivity**—our skills and experience keep your project on time and on budget

**Competitiveness**—tailor-made contracts and work schedules meet your project's specifications

**Reliability**—disciplined crews arrive where, when and for as long as they're needed

**Accuracy**—certified specialists are trained in the latest products and techniques

**Safety**—intense safety training helps create the safest possible work site

**Leadership**—foreman and superintendent training is available for solid jobsite leadership

**Professionalism**—union staff members are dedicated to making the project a success

**We are trained, certified, qualified and ready for:**

- rigging and signaling
- aerial lift
- machinery alignment
- optical alignment
- forklifts
- scaffolding
- welding
- bolt tensioning

**Special attention to safety**

A safe work site is achieved only by comprehensive training for every millwright on every project. Our members must achieve mastery in skills such as:

- Scaffold user
- OSHA 10 & 30
- Millwright health & safety 16-hour course
- Confined space
- Material safety data sheet competency
- Lock-out/Tag-out safety
- Fall arrest
- Worker safety
- Hazardous waste worker safety
- Blood-borne pathogens
- Cardio pulmonary resuscitation
- Ergonomics

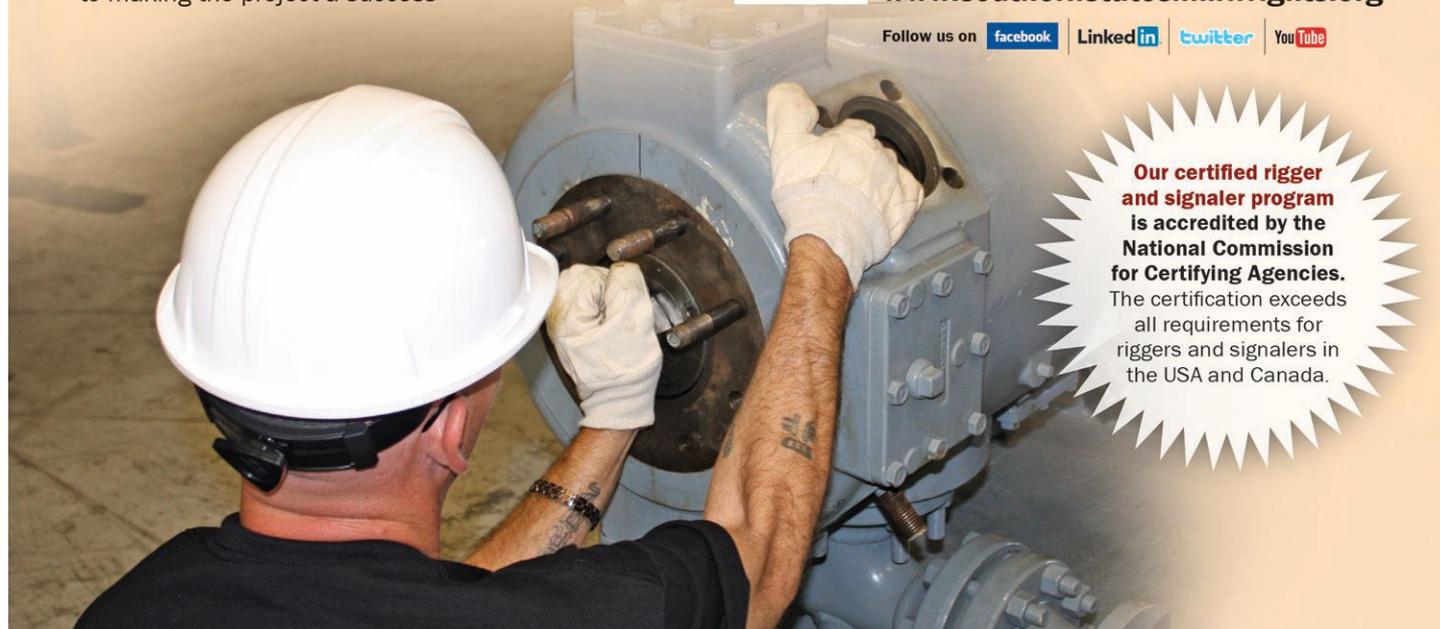
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