

A DAY IN THE LIFE... Outage support

Our service technician Richard, has been talking to us about the work he does on an outage project at a local power station supporting the onsite maintenance crew with this vital work.



What does a day on an outage job typically involve?

The jobs are very safety-focussed. Every day starts with a safety briefing with the site HSE manager and operations manager.

We're then assigned a liaison officer who issues us with permits and then we undertake final Risk Assessments prior to commencing work.

The majority of the work centres around inspections such as valves. We might remove 10 or more valves for inspection on a job.

We also open access hatches for the NDT (Non-Destructable Testing) team to inspect. There can be up to 50 of these.

There are other components that require removal and inspection - it's really important for these to be thoroughly inspected for signs of wear or degradation that might affect their integrity.

We fit new gaskets, clean nuts and torque them up.

Do you need specialist skills or knowledge?

In addition to my mechanical skills, rigging and lifting, and confined space certifications I completed further training to use specialist electrical and hydraulic torque equipment.

Not every job is straightforward and you have to adapt quickly to different situations.

"Safety is the number one priority on outage jobs"

What do you most like about your job?

Although the days are long (12-hour shifts), and the work can be hot and sometimes away from home for several weeks at a time, working on an outage is varied and it's nice to work with other teams and learn new ways of doing things. You get a real sense of team on these jobs. There is also a big focus on wellbeing with hog roasts and other events laid on.

