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The Case for Arctic Fox[®] In-Line Fuel Heaters

Helping Westmoreland County Food Bank Deliver

Summary

Hunger in America is an issue that transcends urban, suburban and rural environments existing in every county in America. According to a study conducted by Feeding America, a network of 200 food banks, one in seven Americans – 46 million people – rely on food pantries and meal service programs to feed themselves and their families.

In Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania food assistance is provided each month to approximately 15,000 low-income residents, including 4,000 children and over 2,000 seniors. In 2013, Westmoreland County Food Bank distributed more than 8 million pounds of food consisting of fresh produce, refrigerated foods and beverages.

In order to serve its communities, the non-profit maintains a tractor, which is used to pull any of its four trailers for pantry deliveries and picking up product from food and beverage distributors. At times the tractor and trailers are required to travel within five nearby states to pick up food and beverages from national donors such as Coke, Pepsi, Kellogg, Conagra through Feeding America.

The food bank also has a 26' refrigerated box truck used for pantry deliveries, weekly pick-ups from stores in their "In-Store Donation Program" such as Walmart, Giant Eagle, Aldi, Target and from local food distributors such as Supervalu, US Foods, and Reinhardt.

Issue

Winter weather can wreak havoc on diesel trucks. In cold weather, diesel fuel solidifies into a partially crystalline state known as waxing or gelling. The solidified waxes thickens the oil and clogs fuel filters and injectors in engines, and the crystals build up in the fuel line, especially in fuel filters, until the engine is starved of fuel, causing it to stall out.

As the backbone of its food pick-up and distribution system, if Westmoreland County Food Bank's trucks do not start or cannot run for any reason, everyone involved suffers. In addition to incurring unbudgeted costs, the food bank cannot deliver food to its pantries for those in need.

Solution

Heating hydraulic fluid prior to operating equipment not only increases productivity because workers don't have to wait around, warm hydraulic fluid also reduces pump wear and the chances of pump cavitation and expense associated with blown seals that can result in unnecessary down time.

In-Line fuel warming is a proven, cost effective method of providing protection against downtime due to fuel gelling. Arctic Fox In-Line Fuel Heaters provide the margin of safety necessary in moderate cold weather temperatures. For extremely cold weather operation, combining them with In-Tank Fuel Heaters provide additional protection.

Results

In his 12 years with the food bank, director of operations Kevin Povich has experienced the headaches of stalls and no-starts, particularly during Pennsylvania's winter months. After watching fully-loaded trucks die after leaving the dock, a few years ago Povich searched for in-line fuel heaters and found Arctic Fox, a Phillips and Temro Industries (PTI) brand. After purchase and installation, that truck became their best running vehicle.

When the food bank received a grant for two new trucks in 2014, Povich insisted on Arctic Fox inline heaters but the \$1,900 for both heaters made them prohibitive. Povich contacted Peter Bercich with PTI. After hearing Povich's story, PTI donated two Arctic Fox 1518BT-B100 In-Line Fuel Heaters to Westmoreland County Food Bank.

Cold weather is no longer an issue for Westmoreland County Food Bank or its charitable recipients.

