



CASE STUDY

INDUSTRY: HEALTHCARE



CUSTOMER: The Amarillo VA Health Care System

LOCATION: Amarillo, Texas, USA

BACKGROUND: The Amarillo VA Health Care System provides primary, specialty, and extended care of the highest quality to Veterans throughout the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, and eastern New Mexico. Approximately 25,000 patients are treated annually. The health care system maintains 55 acute care inpatient beds for general medical, surgical, and intensive care. Geriatric and extended care is provided in the 120-bed skilled nursing home care unit.

The hospital produces its own steam and distributes it on campus through a steam distribution line. The maintenance staff had been reduced over the years through attrition. They had an ongoing trap management program, but with manpower cuts, the remaining qualified steamfitters were frequently being pulled away to other tasks. The medical center had a strong need for consistent trap monitoring due to the lack of manpower.

SCOPE OF WORK: Armstrong International provided a turnkey retrofit installation of SteamEye® trap monitoring to identify when and where a trap had failed and tied it into their existing local area network through an IT approved device. The energy manager could efficiently track every trap and pinpoint the location of failed traps.

A comprehensive steam trap survey was conducted to locate all traps, identify failed traps and specify the correct monitoring devices. The survey results generated a turnkey retrofit project to install steam trap monitoring transmitters on the high and medium pressure traps. Removable insulation was also installed to increase system efficiency.

BENEFITS: With ongoing manpower cuts, this facility's maintenance staff shrunk to three steam fitters and whom all had other obligations besides the steam system. Steam Eye® help the customer quickly identify and repair failed traps and ultimately resulted in a simple payback within five years.

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