



RAUPEX Plumbing System Helps Golden Plains Hospital Deliver Safe, Reliable Emergency Care to Patients

(LEESBURG, Va.) – Located in close proximity to the largest inland oil refinery in the U.S., the Golden Plains Hospital emergency room in Hutchinson County, Texas serves as a vital nearby source for burn treatment. Originally constructed in 1937, the hospital underwent numerous plumbing renovations in the 1980s, and by 2005, the complete piping system consisted of a mixed bag of copper, galvanized and CPVC pipes. Scaling, buildup and leaks in the existing system had compromised the water supply to an extent that crucial burn treatment equipment could no longer be used. To accomplish this, Golden Plains director of plant operations, Danny Courtney, approached Allen’s Tri-State Mechanical in Amarillo, Texas to oversee a complete re-pipe of the emergency room plumbing system.

Greg Levassar, sales representative for Morrison Supply Company in Amarillo, Texas, recommended use of RAUPEX cross-linked polyethylene PEXa pipe and brass EVERLOC fittings from REHAU for the re-pipe of the area and fixtures. “Water quality was a primary concern with this project, and RAUPEX does not create the scaling or buildup that is associated with other products over time,” Levassar explained.

According to Rich Anderson, plumbing supervisor for Allen’s Tri-State Mechanical, the flexible, easy-to-install nature of RAUPEX also made sense for this project. “Golden Plains Hospital’s emergency room is a busy place, and minimizing any downtime was crucial.

RAUPEX is easier to install in tight and challenging spaces than rigid pipe, making it ideal for retrofit projects. Also, connections are made simple with EVERLOC fittings, and their quality contributes to the kind of enhanced long-term reliability of the overall system that the hospital’s plant operations director was seeking,” he said.

Anderson specified RAUPEX cold water pipe in ½-inch to 2-inch diameters for the project. “The considerable size range of REHAU’s RAUPEX made it possible to design the entire system in PEX, versus having to use a multi-material system which is typically the case when larger-diameter pipes are required,” Anderson stated.

A multi-staged filter system also was installed to decrease the domestic water supply particle count to a mere five microns. In tandem with the new RAUPEX plumbing system, this would enable the hospital to use its Sonata Ultrasound burn therapy tub once again. Allen’s Tri-State Mechanical additionally isolated each pipe line with an individual shutoff valve to enable full operation of the emergency room during the re-pipe. “Individual shutoffs will give the hospital greater control over the water supply, both during the project and in any future event when one or more lines need to be taken down while others are required to remain operational,” Anderson explained.

Since completion of the re-pipe in April of this year, REHAU and Allen’s Tri-State Mechanical have received positive feedback from hospital operations staff. “The end result of this project is of vital importance to the hospital,” Joel Arnold, assistant director of plant operations, said. “The reputation that preceded both REHAU and Allen’s when they were originally chosen for the project certainly proved true.”

“REHAU was instrumental in helping us present our original project proposal to Golden Plains in a professional manner, and got us the required technical information as soon as we needed it,” said Anderson. “This kind of support makes all the difference when you’re trying to win a critical project like this, and get it underway quickly.”

“The Golden Plains Hospital project is a prime example of the REHAU focus on strong customer partnerships, and to delivering the kind of products that can help make them successful,” REHAU sales coordinator Peter Schumacher said. “As a company we are also committed to delivering proven, innovative products and systems with long-term reliability and an ability to address crucial needs. The RAUPEX pipe and EVERLOC fittings system used to re-pipe a critical area of the hospital certainly accomplishes these goals, and will allow Golden Plains to rely on a maintenance-free plumbing system for many years to come.”

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