



January, 2010 - One-Day PMs

Up in the Air

Maybe people just want to clear the air at the beginning of the year. Or maybe it's a sign of a fresh start in 2010. For whatever reason, ProBusS has been handling a lot of jobs recently that have to do with...*air*.

Actually, it's not surprising when you think about it. Air is power: to run tools, move materials, as a component of combustion, as a means of temperature control. Air is a raw material for many industries, and clean air is a concern in every plant.

So let's look at some things we've done with air that might apply to your business, too.

Clearing the Air

A ProBusS tech recently was checking 25 exhaust fans on the roof of a customer's plant when he found a fan that needed new bearings. That discovery, and a quick repair, kept the exhaust system running at peak efficiency and avoided another sticky issue: the customer had a corporate maintenance audit coming up and a bad exhaust fan wouldn't have helped.

Finding a bad bearing presents another opportunity: to determine **why the bearing failed** in the first place. Bearing technology has progressed to the point where, in many cases, **we can predict with great accuracy how long bearings will last**. If they fail before their life expectancy, it's typically because of:

- a heavier load than what was anticipated
- not enough lubrication, or the wrong kind
- careless handling
- improper sealing
- tolerances that are too tight, leaving insufficient internal bearing clearance



A good technician will not just replace a bad bearing, but determine if the bearing has failed prematurely and **what caused the bearing's "early out."** Plus, he'll give you some options for improving the bearing's chances for a longer life.

Cooling the Air

Plants use air in so many ways, and cooling is often one of them. At a food grade bottling plant for one of our customers, forced air is used to cool bottles of product as they move down the line. To improve the efficiency of the line, ProBusS is building an air hood to concentrate the cooling effect of the air.

It's a nice piece of **custom construction -polycarbonate and stainless steel, food grade construction-** and it will result in less air needed to cool the product and hopefully some nice energy savings as well.



More efficient cooling is one area maintenance departments can look to for greater efficiencies.

Warming the Air

In this part of the country, heat tape is often used during the winter months to keep outdoor air lines from freezing. For example, moisture can find its way into air pressure-operated butterfly valves on outdoor silos, then the temperature drops, and the #@*!* valve freezes.

For one of our customers we're building a special, heat-trapping box that will keep the valves out of the wind, snow, and ice, and improve the effectiveness of the heat tape.

In each of these recent projects, we're not changing the temperature, pressure, or quantity of air. Instead we're maximizing its use. **Simple repairs, improvements, and ideas to help the plant run smoother and more effectively and efficiently.** And that's smart business in any industry.

And speaking of smart, **have you heard about One-Day PMs?**

One-Day PMs

We've started a new program at ProBusS that has attracted a lot of attention from our customers. We call it the **One-Day PM**. It's simple, practical, and inexpensive preventative maintenance.

A One-Day PM is a visit to your plant by **one ProBusS professional, one day a month, at a reduced rate**, to see to your preventative maintenance needs.

Think of the work a One-Day PM could handle for you:

- Scheduled maintenance
- Machine tests, lubrication, adjustments, etc. (*that's how we spotted those bad bearings in the roof exhaust fan*)
- Replacement of lights, filters, batteries, and other parts and materials
- Special needs for your plant and equipment

Take advantage of One-Day PMs by calling us now.

616-490-4781.

Your One-Day PMs could start as early as this week!

