



# Keeping the oxygen flowing

## Chart's new mobile hospital trailer

By Agnes H. Baker

**M**edical gas supply systems are a critical part of patient care in hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Among medical gases, oxygen is one of the most widely used. Sourced from very large holding tanks installed outside of the hospital, oxygen is generally piped into patient rooms and other areas where it is needed on a regular basis. When tanks need to be maintained, repaired, tested, replaced, or relocated due to construction, keeping a constant flow of oxygen into supply systems can be challenging. Until recently, to maintain oxygen supply during maintenance or construction, hospitals had to accept whatever equipment their gas supplier could patch together.

To address this situation proactively, Chart Industries has introduced a mobile hospital trailer to its product suite of engineered application solutions. Designed to provide an uninterrupted supply of liquid oxygen (LOX) to a medical facility, the mobile hospital trailer is a cost-effective solution for facilities that are switching over to a new LOX system due to construction, changing their gas supplier, or undergoing maintenance of their current LOX equipment. The system comprises a primary horizontal 3,000-gallon bulk tank, a reserve horizontal 900-gallon bulk tank, a three-circuit ambient vaporizer, a pressure control manifold, and full LED lighting —

all mounted/loaded on a flatbed trailer.

Tim Neeser, Chart's VP of Customer Service and Marketing for the Distribution & Storage Group, explains, "Chart began developing this product in 2015 in response to a customer request for medical installations. We had teams from our Distribution & Storage Group work on the project, and we worked closely with the customer to make sure we designed the right product. There was no mobile oxygen trailer of this kind available when we began development. Chart officially introduced the mobile oxygen trailer in 2016, and it is in use at a customer site today."


**"...the mobile hospital is a stand-alone unit that is NFPA 99 compliant"**

The mobile hospital is specifically designed to be a stand-alone unit that is compliant with NFPA 99 (<http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=99>). The trailer is pre-wired to a local alarm panel and can be quickly connected to the hospital's master alarm panel, which provides signals on tank levels and outlet pressures. Because these trailers are meant to be used at various sites and in a variety of circumstances, the mobile hospital is

designed to be filled from either the driver side or the curb side, accommodating a variety of parking scenarios. Another feature that makes this trailer an ideal oxygen backup solution for a medical facility is its "Drop & Go" design, which allows for quick startup.

The trailer's 2,500-scfh ambient vaporizer allows for minimal maintenance and adequate flow for most hospital applications and has automatic vaporizer switching, which allows for defrost of the primary vaporizer (powered by the control panel). The unit comes with four 20' flex hoses for connection to the hospital's emergency supply, is equipped with two maintenance tool boxes for organization of tools and adapters, and includes three 4' x 4' square aluminum spill aprons for filling over asphalt.

As the medical services industry in North America continues to grow, Neeser sees this application expanding to accommodate smaller installations as well. He foresees new mobile trailer models being flexible and able to serve as emergency backups for many applications, including those for argon and nitrogen, in addition to oxygen service.

Chart continues to expand its transportation offerings in other areas as well. The company recently launched a complete line of Orca™ (Chart's microbulk) delivery units for carbon dioxide service. These are available in five sizes ranging from 3 to 10.5 tons (see related article titled "The history of microbulk," by Tim Neeser, *gasworld* magazine, May 2017.) 

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Chart's mobile hospital trailer, contact Richard Rosik at 1-888-877-3093 or visit

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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