

Case Study

Crown Disposal Company, Inc., Sun Valley, CA

PRIMARY BUSINESS: Refuse & Recycling Transport

Crown Disposal saves tires, wheels with pressure monitoring system

Crown Disposal Company, Inc., Sun Valley, California, was established as a privately held corporation in 1960 with a single truck parked behind the owner's home. Today the company operates a large fleet of transfer trailers, end dump trailers, front loaders and roll-off vehicles for the collection & transfer of refuse and recyclables from residential, commercial, industrial and multifamily units.

When the company decided to use wide based tires instead of duals to save weight on its new trailers, it began having dangerous and costly problems. "We were experiencing catastrophic tire failures," explained Dave Hand, Crown Disposal's fleet manager. "If a tire was going flat and the driver didn't know it, the tire would go down and run on the wheel.

"We operate 24 hours a day both on and off-road often in dark places, so we knew we had to monitor tire pressure," he noted. "We'd experimented in the past with a number of tire pressure monitors, but never found anything that made sense or appeared to be worthwhile as a long-term investment."

Three years ago the company contacted STEMCO, Longview, Texas, about its new BAT RF tire pressure monitoring system, which combines highly accurate sensor technologies with the latest radio-frequency data transmission to instantly and wirelessly provide information on tire pressure.

"We were impressed with the hub-mounted unit, and hoses with fill ports so drivers could still put air in their tires and check them manually," said Hand. "That was a big plus for us since it eliminated a major problem we had with other systems, where you had to screw something onto the valve stem, and then couldn't get it off to check the tires. "There just was no confidence level."

Crown Disposal has installed the system on its entire fleet of semis and trailers, both newer models with super single tires and older trucks with duals. The company is currently installing it on the roll-offs and all new front loaders in its refuse fleet.

The BAT RF system consists of a series of customizable RF components, providing real-time data on tire inflation and other key performance metrics.



The data in turn can be used to detect leaking tires, analyze tire performance, calculate fuel economy, identify mismatched duals and support warranty claims.

In addition to wheel-end-mounted AirBAT RF tire-pressure sensors and in-cab alerts, Crown Disposal has deployed the system's web-based information system (WebBAT RF), hand-held readers for capturing tire sensor data (HandBAT RF), and gate readers that automatically collect sensor data at selected locations.

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"Our primary concerns in adopting the system were safety, breakdowns and tire wear," explained Hand. "We've had three trailer fires, and when a super single goes flat, you usually ruin both the tire and the wheel, which cost approximately \$1,200 to replace. Conversely if a dual goes flat, the tire next to it still has air; the flat may get hot and lose some life, but you haven't killed it."

"The system works great," notes Hand. "Since deploying it, our issues with wide based tires have been virtually non-existent. I can't quantify its impact on our fuel consumption or tire life, but I know instinctively that running on properly inflated tires, not under- or overinflated, gives you improvements in both. It makes sense; you've got to have it and STEMCO's customer service has been excellent," he concludes.

The right information at the right time.SM

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