

Halifax Health Medical Center Daytona Beach, Florida



Creativity and Installation Cost Savings are Winning Strategies for Halifax Health Medical Center Air Handling Unit Replacement Challenges

Since opening their doors to the community in 1928, Halifax Health has been committed to providing high-quality healthcare using the latest technology and highest patient care practices for Central Florida residents and visitors. When it came time to upgrade the reliability and technology of the four air handlers serving critical areas at its Medical Center in Daytona Beach, Halifax Health turned to ClimateCraft custom air handlers.

In 2015 when two handlers serving the hospital's intensive care unit started experiencing the reliability issues common with the end of mechanical life, the hospital team solicited replacement solutions. The location of those old air handlers was a challenge, since they were in the middle

of the hospital's expansive roof. Any replacement units brought in would probably require a large, expensive crane to lift the new units into place. In addition, the hospital's proximity to the nearby Daytona Beach airport required that any use of a large crane had to be coordinated with the airport—an issue that the hospital wanted to avoid.

Creativity and Cost Savings

As a publicly funded institution, Halifax Health was required to bid large projects. Bud Burk, president of Medical Facilities Construction Group, Inc., came up with a creative solution to the air handler replacement dilemma. Bud tackled the challenge with the local ClimateCraft sales representative in Orlando. They realized that ClimateCraft custom air handlers could provide the quality and performance that the ICU needed in a quick-ship timetable, using a design that would minimize downtime during installation of the replacement units.

During discussions with ClimateCraft, Bud and his local representative learned that ACCESS™ site-assembled air handling units could be delivered in sections, allowing Bud to use a smaller crane to place the units on the roof, thereby saving the hospital almost \$100,000 in crane rental costs—and avoiding the logistical issue of coordinating crane use with the airport.

On bid day Bud was the only contractor who proposed a solution using a custom quality unit, delivered in a six-week schedule that could actually save the hospital



One of the three ClimateCraft custom air handlers installed on the roof of the Halifax Health Medical Center

crucial installation time and costs. Bud was awarded the project and then spent a half-day at the ClimateCraft production facility in Oklahoma City, learning as much about the specific hospital units as he could to optimize the installation process.

Bud was impressed with the what he saw at the factory. "ClimateCraft air handlers have great quality and are well put together," he says. "I ought to know because I'm picky, since I've been in the sheet metal business since 1976." He was also impressed by the ClimateCraft people in Oklahoma City. "They're awesome, and really understand what a contractor needs on the job site. They make sure you have everything to make the installation go smoothly and successfully."

Tight Timetable

Another challenging aspect of the project was the tight timetable for replacement. Due to the critical nature of the hospital's operating suites, the team could only shut down those suites from Friday afternoon until Monday morning, giving the installers less than 72 hours to complete the installation of the two new air handling units.

The ClimateCraft ACCESS air handlers were delivered to the hospital job site in sections for site assembly. Bud and his crew assembled the sections, added the piping headers and electrical connections and then set the unit in place on the rooftop in time to meet the hospital's shutdown schedule.

Two More Units

The success of that first project inspired Halifax Health to turn to Bud again in 2017 when two more critical air handling units at the Daytona Beach Medical Center needed replacement, one indoor unit and one outdoor unit. Bud worked with his representative to select two ClimateCraft custom air handlers. The outdoor unit for the surgical area arrived in sections and was built on a piece of steel. Airflow to the surgical area was interrupted for only one hour for Bud's crew to make the required duct connections.

The indoor unit was "back in a hole in the mechanical room," as Bud described it. To meet the challenges of this replacement, Bud again selected a ClimateCraft



"ACCESS Site-Assembled Air Handling Units are ideal for projects that look impossible. Using ACCESS can be the strategy that helps you win the job."

— Bud Burk, president
Medical Facilities Construction Group, Inc.

ACCESS™ site-assembled unit custom designed to fit the existing footprint and available ingress and egress. Using the knowledge that he had acquired at the ClimateCraft facility, Bud and one of his crew were able to completely assemble and start up the ACCESS unit in three days. "I love that the ACCESS units are so easy to assemble," Bud said. "The temperature in the mechanical room reached more than 100 °F due to venting steam so we were happy to be done with the installation so quickly."

Custom Capabilities

With custom design capabilities, ClimateCraft could meet the specific requirements of the Halifax Health Medical Center for both projects. All the ClimateCraft air handling units for this facility were designed in compliance with the Miami-Dade County building codes. To meet the hospital's need for redundancy in the critical operating suites area, the ClimateCraft air handlers were equipped with FanMatrix™ redundant fans or arrays, both with variable frequency drives. The air handlers were also equipped with communication modules for integration with the hospital's existing building automation system.

"The custom flexibility of ClimateCraft allowed us to get creative and save significant project costs. Those savings helped the hospital afford to move forward with the project," said the local sales representative. "The keys to a successful project like this are a good owner and a good contractor who are receptive to creative alternatives."

Bud expanded on the value of the ACCESS site-assembled solution, "It's ideal for any project that looks impossible—where you think you can't get to it, or you're worried that you might have to rip out a brick wall. Using ACCESS units can be the strategy that helps you win the job."



Bud Burk with two of the ClimateCraft custom air handling units