

# Aging County Morgue

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## Importance of Retrofit Refrigeration

- With age, any equipment will become less reliable
- Keep long-term operating costs down
- Modernize the refrigerant.

***Due directly to the diligent maintenance of the skilled technicians at the County critical equipment that had a 15 year lifespan was able to perform until replacement planning and actual installation to make it last 28 years.***

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## Critical Facility Gets Retrofit

Over 1,800,000 people are expected to live in Santa Clara County. In May of 2013 Santa Clara County was declared by the Mercury News to be the fastest growing county in California. Now couple that with a morgue for the entire county that has equipment that was installed in 1987 but designed sometime before that to handle the dead for the existing population. So not only was the capacity increasing the equipment was aging. Realizing that a failed refrigeration system

at the County Morgue is something that is not tolerable because it is a critical function at the county. This equipment was maintained by the skilled county technicians that kept this equipment working for 28 years with minimal issues. It is important to note that the equipment is past the expected life of 15 years.

For a retrofit of this type the morgue needed to be kept online during the retrofit to preserve the bodies. This means that a redundant

system needed to be in place to have one system stay on line while the other was being replaced. During the installation the morgue was still in full operation, meaning autopsies, processing new arrivals and releasing bodies to the next stage would still occur while the HVACR employees were actively working on the equipment.

This proved a challenge for some of our employees.

## What Changes Were Planned...

### Old:

- Freezer capability no longer needed.
- 4 roof top condensing units (2 medium temp, 2 freezer)
- 6 interior evaporator cooling coils (4 med temp, 2 freezer)
- 25 horse power.
- Blended refrigerant

### New:

- 2 roof top condensing units (2 med temp, 0 freezer)
- 6 interior evaporator coils (6 med temp, 0 freezer)
- New System, 20 horse power Copeland scroll Compressor
- Norlake branded system controls.
- Refrigerant to new R-404A

### Project Successes:

- Project completed without incident, on time and under budget.
- The equipment and installation proved to be very reliable with no service calls over the past year.
- Zero Safety incidents to date.