

Uncovering oil cooler failure in refuse truck prevents huge repair cost



CASE STUDY

Situation

A refuse truck with a natural gas engine had an oil cooler failure, which, if not detected early, could have caused catastrophic engine damage.

Action

The truck was equipped with FleetguardFIT, the most capable filtration and engine oil monitoring system available today. FleetguardFIT provides real-time status updates of Fleetguard filters in equipment so maintenance can be based on actual engine conditions rather than guesswork. Data from the oil quality sensor showed a steep spike in FIT parameters. After maintenance was alerted, an oil analysis was requested, which confirmed abnormal levels of coolant elements, particularly sodium and potassium. Further investigation revealed an oil cooler failure.

Coolant Element Levels

Potassium	Abnormal level
Magnesium	Normal
Manganese	Normal
Molybdenum	Abnormal level
Silicon	Normal
Sodium	Abnormal level

Results

The oil cooler was repaired during a subsequent maintenance procedure. Because FIT was able to provide early indication of the anomaly, downtime and maintenance costs were reduced, and the engine life was extended.