

CASE STUDY

Efficient Recovery of High GWP Refrigerants From Flood-Damaged Supermarket Refrigeration Systems Prevent Potential Leaks



BACKGROUND

About the Customer

A major supermarket chain with hundreds of stores throughout both regional and metro Australia.

About A-Gas

A-Gas is the world leader in the supply and lifecycle management of refrigerants and associated products and services. Through their first-class recovery, reclamation, and repurposing processes, A-Gas captures refrigerants and fire protection gases for future re-use or safe destruction, preventing harmful release into the atmosphere.

For almost 30 years, A-Gas has supported their clients and partners on their environmental journey by supplying lower global warming gases and actively increasing the circularity of the industries they serve, building a more sustainable future.

CHALLENGE

The February 2022 Lismore (a major regional centre northeast of New South Wales, Australia) floods presented a time-sensitive challenge for the supermarket. It was imperative that they prevented any potential leaks of high GWP refrigerants from their flood-damaged refrigeration systems across two stores.

Not only was it critical to recover refrigerant from these damaged systems to avoid any environmental impact, it was also essential for the refrigerant recovery to be completed swiftly to not delay the supermarket's overall flood recovery efforts.

The loss of mains power due to the floods resulted in additional operational and cost challenges for the supermarket.



AT A GLANCE

Challenges

- Mitigate environmental impact by preventing potential refrigerant gas leaks from severely damaged refrigeration systems
- Loss of mains power added challenges to overall flood recovery operations
- Have stores up and running again as quickly as possible

Benefits

- Efficient recovery of high GWP refrigerants prevented potential leaks to atmosphere
- Rapid Recovery trucks are self powered - no need for mains power



"Due to the severity of the floods, we knew how important it was to quickly and safely recover refrigerant from these severely damaged refrigeration systems to avoid any environmental impacts and allow for the stores to open up for its customers as quickly as possible."

Brett Ferguson

Managing Director, A-Gas (Australia)

SOLUTION

Due to the severity of the floods and the need to quickly replace severely damaged refrigeration systems, the supermarket's building services contractor engaged the team at A-Gas Rapid Recovery.

A fully trained and certified Rapid Recovery technician attended the two flood-affected stores in Lismore and carried out the recovery of high GWP refrigerants over a four day period.

Custom designed Rapid Recovery trucks are fitted with their own power supply, allowing the technician to efficiently and effectively recover refrigerant without requiring the supermarket to bring in additional generators, which would have been extremely difficult to source during the peak of the floods.



RESULTS

Over four days, with no mains power and a tight time-frame, the A-Gas Rapid Recovery team successfully recovered high GWP refrigerant gas from severely damaged refrigeration systems. This efficient service supported the supermarket in their flood recovery plan, while also mitigating the risks of any potential leaks to atmosphere.

CONCLUSION

The A-Gas Rapid Recovery on-site recovery service is a good example of how having the right equipment can make a real difference at a time when it matters.

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Self-Powered Rapid Recovery trucks allows efficient recovery of refrigerants from flood-damaged supermarket refrigeration systems avoiding any environmental impact