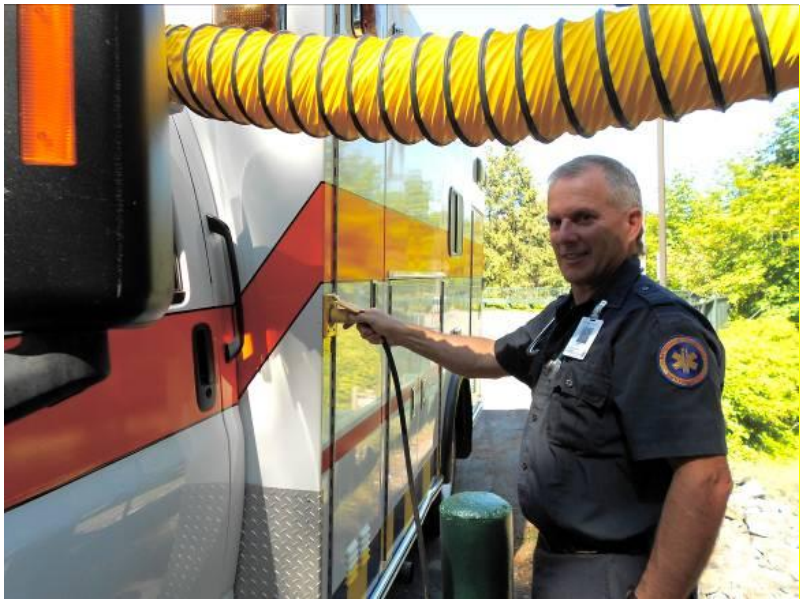
ELECTRIFIED PARKING SPACES

MediDock: Wayside Power for Ambulances

In Brattleboro, Vermont, patients and staff in and near Brattleboro Memorial Hospital's emergency room now breathe cleaner air. In an EPA-funded pilot project, the hospital has installed MediDock power pedestals manufactured by Craufurd Manufacturing (Belchertown, Massachusetts). Ambulances delivering patients no longer need to run the engine to support electrical needs when stopped; they may draw power from a MediDock unit. (Ambulances require power when stationary not only to provide temperature control for the cabin, but to keep sensitive medical equipment and stored medicines at the proper temperatures, as well as to keep equipment properly charged.)



The MediDock units contain an electrical cord on a retractable reel, which keeps the cord out of the way when the unit is not in use and protects it from snow and ice in winter. In addition to electricity, the units provide an air duct that can deliver either warm or cool air to the cab. The benefits of turning off the engine include not only fuel savings and reduction of engine wear, but improved air quality, an indisputable benefit near hospital emergency rooms.

Craufurd Manufacturing also produces the AireDock system (http://www.airedock.com/), a similar wayside power option for long-haul truckers seeking no-idling HVAC and ancillary power during rest periods.

The pilot ambulance-power project was funded by a DERA grant to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, which in turn funded the installations at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. For more information on the project, please see http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/anti-idling-program-a-first-for-hospital/article_c17310e3-afa7-5267-8fa3-e283debdde2c.html. (Photo: An emergency responder connects his ambulance to a MediDock unit at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. Photo courtesy of Craufurd Manufacturing)