

**Thomas-Lyle Inc., Youngstown
DBA: ServiceMaster**

Intervention Key Words: Tommy Gate, Hydraulic Lift, Ramp

Industry: Service: Janitorial

Risk Factor(s): Repetitive motion, Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying, Pushing/Pulling

Situation:

Thomas-Lyle Inc., or Service Master, is a janitorial cleaning service that provides day and evening cleaning of offices. Duties include the cleaning of carpet, floors, walls, and windows fewer than two stories high. Workers are required to lift heavy cleaning equipment in and out of company vans as many as 4-6 times per day. Some of their newer equipment is very heavy and requires 2-3 workers at a time to lift it into the vans. They use a self-made ramp to assist with their loading tasks. Risks for Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) stem from the repetitive heavy lifting and awkward positions required to move the equipment.



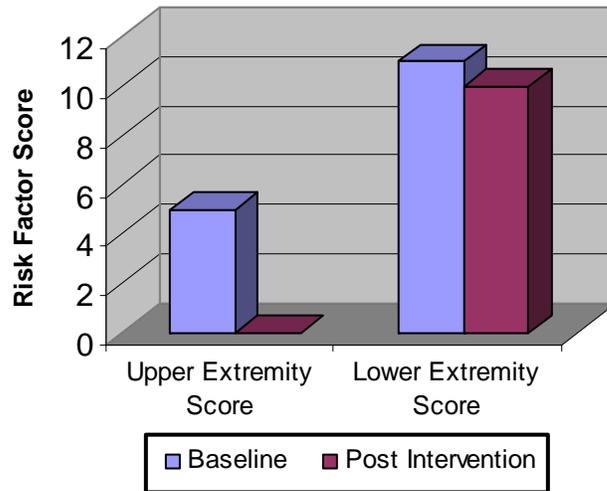
Pictures of a van loaded and empty

Solution:

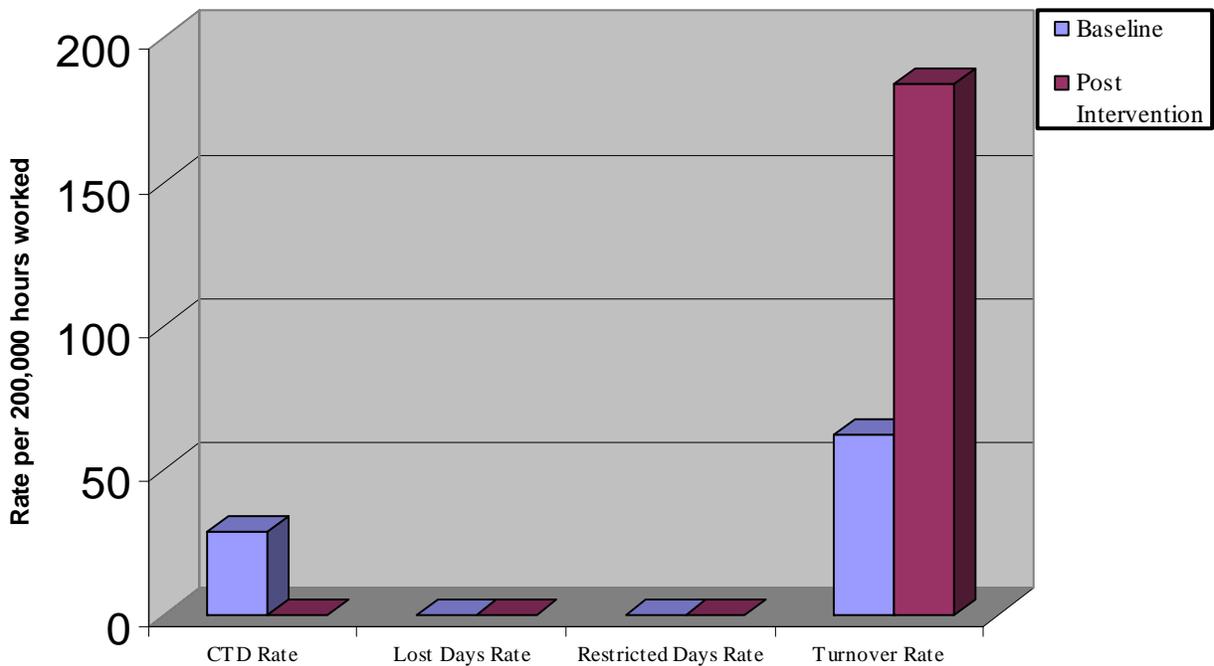
With the purchase of the “Tommy Gate” hydraulic lift, to be attached onto the back of a work van, the potential for a CTD related back injury is reduced significantly. Workers need only push the equipment onto and off the ramp and the hydraulic system incorporated into the gate will lift the equipment from the ground to the height of the van and vice versa. ServiceMaster was awarded \$2,182 from SafetyGrant\$ for an intervention that totaled \$2,928.



Results:



- CTD Risk Factor scores decreased 38% following the intervention.



- CTD rate decreased from 28.5 (per 200,000 hours worked) the year prior to the intervention to 0 in the 2 years following, a 100% improvement.
- Lost Days and Restricted Days rates were at 0 the year prior to the intervention and remained at that level for 24 months after implementation.
- An increased in Employee Turnover rate was observed but may not be directly attributed to the intervention.