

Ashland Comfort Control, Ashland

Intervention Key Words: Stair Climber, Hand Truck

Industry: Retail, Service, Other: Appliance, Delivery

Risk Factor(s): Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Squatting/Kneeling, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying

Situation:

Ashland Comfort Control is a residential and light commercial heating and cooling company. The size and weight (in excess of 400 lbs) of the products, poses an increasing threat of CTD injuries, especially during transportation. Workers use a standard truck and hand dolly to deliver heating and cooling units. CTD risks arise from the heavy lifting and awkward postures used to move the bulky items not only in and out of the delivery truck but also into and out of customer's homes and offices.

Solution:

In order to assist with appliance transport and reduce CTD risks, Ashland Comfort Control purchased a "PowerMate" motorized electric hand truck. The truck has a 40" lift height, giving workers the ability to not only climb stairs but also lift appliances into the back of the delivery truck, eliminating the need for a costly mechanical lift gate. It is small enough to maneuver easily through tight hallways and has a load limit of 650 lbs. The new hand truck only weighs 165 lbs. Total cost for the intervention was \$3,854.42. Ashland Comfort Control received \$3,083.54 in assistance from SafetyGrant\$ to offset the costs.



Results:

- CTD, Lost Day and Employee Turnover rates (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) were at 0 for the year prior to the intervention and all increased over the 2 years following. These increases may not be directly attributed to the intervention. Restricted Days rate was at 0 and remained at that level.
- CTD Risk Factor scores decreased 55% following the intervention.