

Schaefer Equipment Inc., Warren

Intervention Key Words: Lift Tables, Tilt Tables

Industry: Manufacturing, Other: Forging

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

Situation:

Schaefer Equipment Inc. is a forging company, which manufacturers forged steel brake components that are used on railroad freight cars. Production is accomplished in 3 areas of the plant, a forge shop, a drill shop and a die shop. Workers in the drill shop are exposed to significant Cumulative Trauma Disorder (CTD) risk factors. Here, drill press operators continuously bend and lift parts to place them into the presses. They are then lifted out of the press and either placed or tossed onto another skid/bin. Parts are located on skids or in tubs, often a 180° from the presses. The individual parts can weigh up to 50 lbs each and operators can drill up to 2,500 pieces per day.



Drill Press Operators

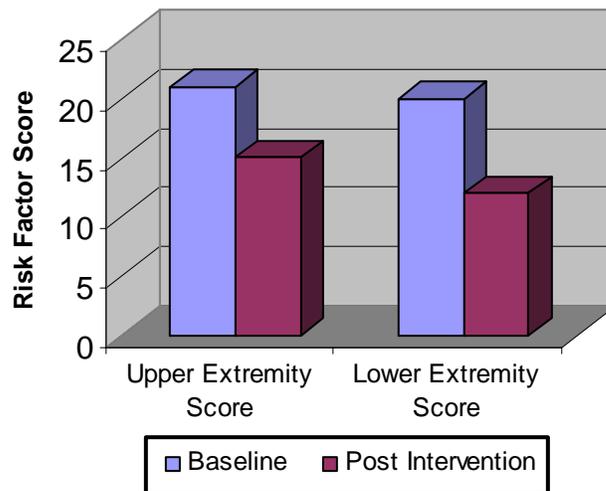
Solution:

In an effort to greatly reduce the need for awkward posture, enable correct lifting techniques to be utilized, and reduce CTD risks, Schaefer Equipment purchased 11 lift and tilt tables. The operators will still have the repetitive lifting requirements but will not have to lift while bent over or over-extended. The total cost of the intervention was \$53,595. Schaefer Equipment received \$40,000 in assistance from SafetyGrant\$ to offset the costs.



Lift Tables in use at Schaefer Equipment

Results:



- CTD Risk Factor scores in the drill press department decreased 34% following the intervention.
- CTD Rate (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) was at 42.0 the year prior to the intervention and decreased to 15.0 over the 2 years following, a 62% improvement.
- Lost Days, Restricted Days and Employee Turnover rates were at 1232, 1134 and 14 respectively prior to the intervention. The rates all decreased 100% to 0 following the intervention.