

Cardiopulmonary Care Inc., Logan

Intervention Key Words: Conveyor, Aqua Phase Medical Equipment Washer and Sanitation System

Industry: Health Care, Other: Home Medical Equipment

Risk Factor(s): Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Wrist and Shoulder deviations, Squatting/Kneeling, High Hand Force- Pinching/Gripping, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying, Pushing/Pulling, Repetitive motion

Situation:

Cardiopulmonary Care Inc. is a full service home medical equipment provider with special interest and expertise in respiratory care. The nature of their business poses a number of risks for Cumulative Trauma Disorders. First, due to physical constraints, their warehouse is located in the second floor of one of their office buildings. This results in awkward postures and repetitive carrying of equipment up and down a flight of stairs, possibly leading to CTD injuries and other fall hazards. In addition, workers face possible overexertion and strains from repetitive motions when cleaning wheelchairs and other equipment that is returned. Fatigue has also been a common complaint when performing both task in conjunction with complaints about aches and pains in the hands, wrists, arms and shoulders.

Solution:

In order to address their CTD issues, Cardiopulmonary Care Inc. purchased Aqua Phase Medical Equipment Washer and Sanitation System and built a reversible belt conveyor. The cleaning system can accommodate larger items such as wheelchairs and will eliminate at least 95% of manual cleaning by mechanically performing the task. The conveyor system is designed to provide 2 way transfers of items between the first and second floor (warehouse). They conveyor will reduce or eliminate risk factors associated with carrying heavy items to or from the warehouse. The total cost to purchase the equipment was \$34,925. CPCI received \$26,871 from SafetyGrant\$ to offset the costs.



Aqua Phase Washer

Results:

- CTD and Lost Days rates (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) were at 0 the year prior to the intervention and remained at that level for 2 years following.
- Both Restricted Days rate and Turnover rate were at 41 the year prior to the intervention and decreased 100% over the following 2 years.
- CTD Risk Factor scores, averaged over 2 tasks, decreased 44% following the intervention.