

Case Study

6243

Intervention key words

Maintaining vehicles, column lift, heavy vehicle lifter

Industry

Service; other

Risk factors

Manual handling – lifting/carrying; awkward posture – back deviations; awkward posture – neck deviations; high hand force – pinching/grasping; awkward posture – squatting/kneeling; awkward posture – wrist deviations

Situation

This public employer has recorded injuries from operating and maintaining equipment and vehicles. The nature of the work requires employees to position themselves in various awkward positions while performing their assigned tasks. The risk factors for the work involve employees:

- Gripping heavy loads by holding and squeezing;
- Awkward postures of the neck, shoulders, arms, wrist, and fingers;
- Hard and sharp contacts of the hand, arm, and leg contact with sharp objects;
- Bending their torsos forward, laterally, and backwards;
- Working frequently in inclement weather and under dangerous emergency conditions.

Solution

This employer invested \$34,060.37 to purchase a mobile column lift. This machine allows the mechanics to lift and secure a piece of equipment to perform service on it. This automatic lift had many positive impacts including:

- It allows technicians to see, reach and work on affected areas much easier;
- It decreases their physical exertion and static positioning;
- It eliminates the repetitive up and down motion while working under the vehicle;
- It reduces the strain caused by the lifting, pushing, and pulling involved in these tasks.

Results

- The incident rate standardized for each 200,000 hours worked decreased from 61.2 the two years prior to the intervention to zero the two years following, a 100-percent improvement.
- The National Safety Council reports the average cost for a workers' compensation claim is \$19,382. This employer's return on investment was 1.5 years.
- The technicians now work in a safer area, and the employer has not reported any injuries.