

Case Study

6330

Intervention key words

Automatic pickup lifts gates

Industry

Construction

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 construction employer has recorded injuries from loading and unloading field construction equipment into service trucks. This work contains the following risk factors and activities:

- Extended reaching and using force to push or pull equipment;
- Reaching below the knees to pick up equipment;
- Wrist and shoulder strain from gripping and handling heavy loads;
- Cuts and abrasions while handling sharp and heavy objects;
- Bending torsos forward, laterally and backward.

Solution

The employer invested \$20,269.32 to purchase five automatic pickup lift gates. These lifters rise and lower equipment on to and off the trucks. These gates eliminate the weight exposure, awkward postures, handling an unstable load, risk factors associated with the process.

Results

- The incident rate (standardized for each 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 2.55 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. The return on investment was six months.
- The employer has recorded no injuries in the last two years since using the lifting gates.