

Missler's IGA, Willard



Intervention keywords: Power-assisted pallet jack

Industry: Grocery

Risk Factor(s): Awkward posture – back deviations; awkward posture – shoulder; manual handling – pushing/pulling; manual handling – lifting/ carrying

Situation: Missler's IGA operates a large grocery store that receives more than 20 trucks weekly shipping various products. Pallets may weigh more than 2,000 pounds. Employees unload these trucks with a manually operated pallet jack down a steep incline. Several injuries occurred including one where the pallet jack ran into an employee moving a pallet off a truck. At times, high loads or heavy loads are restacked on carts.

Solution: This grocery store purchased a power-assisted pallet jack for \$4,400. No force is now required to move the pallets. The photo shows the power-assisted pallet jacket.

Results

- The incident rate (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) decreased from 1.9 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 of a workers' compensation claim is \$19,382. The store's return on investment was 5.8 months.
- For only an outlay of three hours weekly, workers may be on the sales floor with customers rather than in backroom areas unloading and moving stock cases. This translates into \$50,000 in annual savings for Missler's IGA.