Jackson's Maytag Home Appliance Center, West Lafayette

Intervention Key Words: Stair Climber, Hand Truck, Dolly
Industry: Retail, Other: Hardware, Appliance
Risk Factor(s): Awkward Posture- Back deviations, Shoulder deviations, Squatting/Kneeling, Manual Handling- Lifting/Carrying, Pushing/Pulling

Situation:

Jackson's Maytag Home Appliance Center in West Lafayette is a retail hardware and appliance store servicing the general public and light industry. The store also offers appliance delivery and removal. Including removals, employees handle approximately 2000 appliances per year. This includes deliveries involving stairs, especially transporting laundry machines into and out of basements. The size and weight of the products poses an increasing threat of CTD injuries, especially during deliveries. Workers use a standard pickup truck and hand dolly to deliver appliances. CTD risks arise from the heavy lifting and awkward postures used to move the bulky items not only in and out of the delivery truck but also into and out of customer's homes.

Solution:

In order to assist with appliance transport and reduce CTD risks, Jackson's Maytag Home Appliance purchased two "PowerMate" motorized electric hand truck. The trucks have a 40" lift height, giving workers the ability to not only climb stairs but also lift appliances into the back of the delivery truck, eliminating the need for a costly mechanical lift gate. They are small enough to maneuver easily through tight hallways and have a load limit of 650 lbs. The new hand trucks only weigh 100 lbs. Total cost for the intervention was $5,402. Jackson's Home Appliance received $3,958 in assistance from SafetyGrant$ to offset the costs.

Results:

- CTD rate and Lost Days rate were at 100 and 700 (standardized per 200,000 hours worked) respectively the year prior to the intervention and decreased 100% over the 2 years following.
- Restricted Day and Employee Turnover rates were at 0 for the year prior to the intervention and remained at 0 for 2 years following.