

Patient Transport Best Practice

Power stretchers and power loaders are a cost effective way to prevent injuries

- Patient transport is the #1 cause of injuries to fire department personnel.
- Manually loading and unloading a stretcher has a very high risk for back and shoulder injuries.
- Manually raising and lowering a stretcher is also a high risk activity.

Power stretchers combined with power loaders reduce injuries.



Stretcher-related injuries went down 78% in a paramedic service after they implemented power stretchers and loaders. They found that the savings in injury costs were enough to pay for the powered systems within their service life.

Armstrong et al. (2017). Implementing powered stretcher and load systems was a cost effective intervention to reduce the incidence rates of stretcher related injuries in a paramedic service. *Applied Ergonomics* (62) 34-42.