



iNjX® Reduces Workers' Compensation Costs and Saves EMS Professionals' Backs

WINTERPORT, MAINE

PROBLEM

As anyone involved in emergency medical services knows, EMS professionals often face the risk of injury on the job. Back injuries are a constant threat because of the repeated physical lifting involved in basic patient transportation tasks such as loading a patient into or unloading a patient from an ambulance using a traditional cot.

According to the newest research from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), strains and sprains of the upper and lower trunk were among the most common diagnoses for EMS workers injured in 2014. The cause of the majority of these injuries? **Overexertion during lifting.**

Philip Higgins, Director of the Winterport Volunteer Ambulance Service (WVAS) in Winterport, Maine, is familiar with this issue. The WVAS runs on donated hours, so keeping volunteers healthy is of the utmost importance. Higgins has observed that an increase in patients' weight over the years has further increased the strain that WVAS volunteers experience when transporting patients. In 2014, Higgins personally suffered a soft tissue back injury while lifting a bariatric patient into an ambulance.



SOLUTION

Three months after his injury, Higgins saw a demonstration of the Ferno iNjX® **Integrated Patient Transport & Loading System**™ at an EMS convention. The X-Frame, battery-powered system has a unique independent leg operation that eliminates the need to physically lift patients while loading them into or unloading them from an ambulance.

Higgins knew that an investment in the iNjX would be an investment in the health and safety of his crew. As the WVAS are a longtime customer of Ferno, starting with a Ferno H-Frame cot used from 1972 to 2009, Higgins also knew that he could trust the quality and reliability of Ferno products.

Higgins is grateful that the iNjX can now do the heavy lifting for his team, reducing the strain on their backs.

"[EMS Professionals] love it. They are amazed that a small volunteer service would purchase this type of advanced equipment," he said. ***"And, as a director, if I can reduce back injuries that means I have people showing up for their assigned shift. This reduces overtime costs."***

RESULT

The iNjX has given both EMS providers and patients in Winterport, Maine a safety and confidence boost.

"Patients feel more secure when being loaded into the ambulance. There is no jerking motion with the [iNjX], just smooth lifting sensation," stated Higgins.

➔ NUMBER OF CALLS ANNUALLY	Around 350
➔ NUMBER OF FULL-TIME VOLUNTEERS	3
➔ NUMBER OF PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS	17
➔ AVERAGE PATIENT WEIGHT	200-300 lbs

Though the iNjX has only been in service at the WVAS for two years, it has already helped reduce workers' compensation costs. Furthermore, no back-related injuries or lost work days have occurred since the iNjX has been implemented.

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Higgins appreciates the simplicity of the iNjX and stresses that every member of his team, at every skill level, is able to operate it easily.

"Morale has increased, and retention has increased," he said. ***"The volunteers feel that their contributions to the service are matched with new equipment purchased."***

It is no secret that the WVAS is proud of their service, and the cutting-edge technology that allows them to provide the highest quality of care.

"It's nothing but a blessing," Higgins said of the iNjX. ***"There's nothing like it."***

RESOURCES

"Emergency Medical Services Workers: Injury and Illness Data," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last modified September 6, 2016, <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ems/data.html>.