

EMSStat, Norman Regional Health System, Oklahoma

EMS Equipment

Injury Reduction Brings New Perspective to EMS Service

From 2011 to 2012, Shane Cohea and his service absorbed 28 total claims amounting to \$343,000. Ten of those injuries were directly caused from cot lifting, and accounted for an astounding 73% of their total claim dollars, valued at \$251,000, with an average cost of \$25,000 per incident!

Costly injuries drive need for change

The goal of Shane Cohea and the employees at EMSStat has always been to help protect medics and patients while saving on financial resources. EMSStat responds to 16,000 calls per year with their 14 front-line vehicles. EMSStat serves a coverage area of over 115,000 residents in the central Oklahoma area. Responding to high call volumes along with growing patient weights and job-related injuries was a concern for the organization.

As Director of Safety and Security for Norman Regional Health System (EMSStat), Cohea was tasked with the difficult job of finding ways to reduce injuries for the medics, and more specifically, help save their backs. His crews were faced with the challenge of increasing patient weights, leading to additional strain on their backs, and greater risk of patient handling injuries.

“After 1.5 years of research it was clear that the Stryker Power-PRO™ XT cot and Power-LOAD® cot fastening system would be a key asset for injury reduction.”

Taking the step to injury reduction

In 2010, EMSStat experienced a total of 39 injuries related to cot lifting. Cohea began looking for a proven solution and after his research, crew feedback and performance evaluation, EMSStat selected the Stryker Power-PRO XT cot and Power-LOAD cot fastening system.

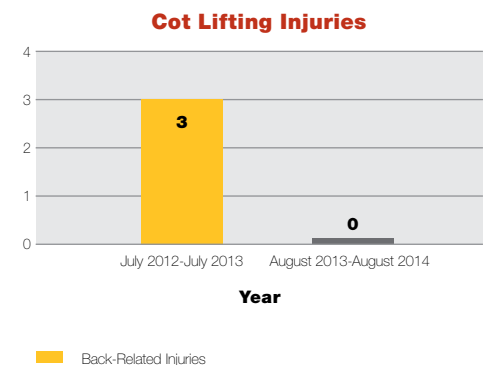
Proven innovation that impacts more than injuries

EMSStat decreased their back injuries to ZERO with the assistance of the Power-LOAD cot fastening system and Power-PRO XT cot. EMSStat saw these results within one year of implementation.

The Power-LOAD cot fastening system used in tandem with the Power-PRO XT cot has provided EMSStat with a way to lift and lower a cot into and out of an ambulance, reducing spinal loads and the risk of cumulative trauma injuries. In addition, occupant safety in the ambulance was maximized by the dynamically crash-tested system. This system helped maximize their injury reduction potential even further and made a positive impact on their crews.

Not only has the addition of the Power-PRO XT cot and Power-LOAD cot fastening system provided EMSStat with a method of reducing back-related injuries for current employees, this equipment is also acting as a recruitment tool by attracting new people to their service and driving employee engagement. According to Cohea, “for the first time ever employees have a level of comfort and safety with their equipment. The recruitment has been enhanced and we are now moving medics who had to be on part-time due to soreness and injuries to full-time.”

“We have gotten a couple of full-time medics who have come to our service just to use the products we provide,” said Manager of EMSStat, Eddie Sims.



Since implementing the Power-LOAD cot fastening system and the Power-PRO XT cot, EMSStat has experienced ZERO injuries.

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Proven innovation that helps operational efficiency and experience

Prior to implementation, EMSStat had to rely on lift-assist to help in dealing with heavier patients. “We always had to call the fire department (for lift assist) but the weight of the patient is now manageable with two medics. When you have the lifting capacity of 700lbs — with patients getting larger —and the staffing is not there, Power-LOAD cot fastening system makes a difference in the field,” said EMS-Stat paramedic Ryan Stewart. The Power-LOAD cot fastening system used in conjunction with Power-PRO XT cot has reduced the need for lift-assist, which can prove costly and cumbersome for any service. Fewer personnel per call results in less cost for each service run and delivers better profitability to the company.

“It was the first time in my career that medics have stopped by to shake my hand for purchasing the equipment, and although the initial cost of the Power-PRO XT cot and the Power-LOAD cot fastening system costs more, in 1.5 years the return on investment will be met.”
 — Cohea

user complaints,” says Cohea. “We also have patients compliment the products we have in the back of our ambulances.”

By using the Power-PRO XT cot with the Power-LOAD cot fastening system, EMS-Stat believes their mission is enhanced and mirrors their principles by showing their commitment to state-of-the-art equipment. “Since implementation of the Power-LOAD cot fastening system with Power-PRO XT cot we have had ZERO

Contact your Stryker EMS Account Manager for more information on this important field research.

References

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3. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. "EMTs and Paramedics." Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-2013 Edition. 29 March 2012. Web. <<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm#tab-3>>.
4. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. "Firefighters." Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-2013 Edition. 11 July 2012. Web. <<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/firefighters.htm#tab-3>>.
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Facts about Injury

- According to a study by NAEMT, “almost one in two (47%) have sustained back injury while performing EMS duties.”²
- EMTs, paramedics, and firefighters experience a much larger number of work-related injuries or illnesses than the national average.^{3,4}
- Overexertion injuries related to lifting, pushing, pulling, holding, carrying, or throwing, cost businesses \$12.75 billion a year in wages and medical payments.⁵

Stryker Power-PRO XT Cot Key Features

- Power-PRO XT cot has a 700 lb weight capacity with an unassisted lift capacity of 500 lb (cot loads over 300 lb (136 kg) may require additional assistance to meet the set load height).⁶
- An innovative battery-powered hydraulic system raises and lowers the patient at the touch of a button.
- Utilizes an easy-to-use manual back-up system for all powered cot functions.
- A Stryker exclusive: automatic high-speed retracting feature saves precious seconds when loading and unloading.
- Reduces workers’ compensation costs, injuries, and lost and modified workdays while improving recruitment and retention.

Stryker Power-LOAD Cot Fastening System Key Features

- Eliminates the need to steer the cot into and out of the ambulance.
- Minimizes patient drops by supporting the cot until the wheels are on the ground.
- Meets dynamic crash test standards for maximized occupant safety.
- Features an easy-to-use manual back-up system, allowing complete operation in the event of power loss.
- Lifts and lowers the cot into and out of the ambulance, eliminating spinal loads that can result in cumulative trauma injuries.