

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF METRO DENVER

SAFETY GRANT CASE STUDY #17-2

➤ Preventing injuries through the use of hand trucks, dollies and moving carts

| INDUSTRY | RISK | GRANT AMOUNT | SOLUTION |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Construction | Injuries from material handling | \$8,256 | Hand trucks and carts |



Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver lacked equipment for its construction crews and thrift store employees to safely move unwieldy donated items. To cut down on serious injuries, the organization used its safety grant from Pinnacol to purchase a variety of material handling equipment. By putting the new hand trucks and carts into use, they reduced claims and lost time days, and employees reported a higher level of satisfaction.

Lack of quality equipment to move heavy, bulky items

Habitat Metro Denver builds, renovates and repairs homes so that individuals can own a home and have a safe, decent place to live. It also operates ReStores, which are thrift retailers for donated home improvement items.

During a typical work day, Habitat construction crews and ReStore employees manually lift and move hundreds of bulky items, including appliances, cabinet sets, sofas, hutches, armoires, boxes of tiles, and packages of shingles. Lifting and moving large, heavy and awkwardly shaped items put employees at risk of potentially serious injuries. The materials handling equipment they did have did not adequately or safely meet their needs.

Identifying the best equipment to improve safety

With their \$8,256 grant from Pinnacol in addition to their own 20% match of \$2,064, Habitat Metro Denver purchased and put into service various material handling equipment between January and June 2018 and instituted training to teach employees how to use the equipment properly.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Carton Dolly | Panel Cart | Pallet Puller |
| Hand Truck and Dolly | Hand Truck | Hand Truck |
| Appliance Truck | Low-Profile Truck | Panel Truck |
| Platform Truck | Platform Truck | |

RESULTS

2 YEARS

with new equipment

FROM 447 TO ZERO

lost time days

25% REDUCTION

in material handling claims

IMPROVED

employee satisfaction

“Not only do we believe that the additional material movers and corresponding training we have provided to our teams have helped prevent injury, we also believe that it has helped reduce the severity of the injuries. In addition, our employees report a higher level of satisfaction with our focus on safety.”

— DANA GRIFFIN, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND RISK MANAGEMENT, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



For more information on the specific risk mitigations described in this study, please contact

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