

Charleston County EMS

EMS Equipment

EMS Injuries Fall to Zero After Implementing Stryker Stair-PRO® Stair Chairs

In 2002, 36 percent of all injuries suffered by Charleston County employees were strain-related injuries. The county's Emergency Medical Service Department (EMS) suffered the greatest. County and EMS leadership decided to do something about it.

Charleston County developed a strain injury reduction campaign in July 2003. One of the first products researched and implemented was the Stryker Stair-PRO stair chair. Once acquired, the benefits of Stair-PRO were remarkable and immediate. "Since the implementation of the stair chairs and training on their use in October 2004, not one Charleston County paramedic or EMT has been injured while using Stryker stair chairs," according to Larry Hodge, Safety and Risk Management Director for Charleston County. Prior to implementation of the Stryker stair chair, EMS was suffering on average three serious injuries per year while transporting patients down flights of stairs.

Since acquiring 23 Stryker Stair-PRO stair chairs, not one Charleston County EMS professional has been injured while transporting patients on the stairs.

"The impact of even one job-related injury can be profound," stated EMS Director Don Lundy. "We have excellent medics whose careers are ended due to severe injuries. One individual

will be out for as much as 10 years; another could be as long as 20. The impact on their lives is something that we cannot overlook," he continued.

According to Hodge, "The success of Charleston County's efforts has been tremendous." Strain-related injuries throughout the county are down over 50 percent. The number of lost days due to strain injuries has fallen 84 percent. Both of these factors have benefited the well-being of the county's EMS employees.

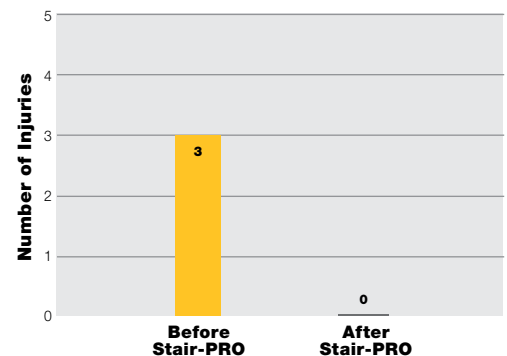
A Campaign That Got Results

A by-product of these efforts has been the swift recognition the county received for its injury reduction campaign:

- National Association of Counties
2004 Achievement Award — Strain Injury Reduction
- South Carolina Association of Counties
2005 Outstanding Safety Achievement Award
- South Carolina Association of Counties
2006 Sustained Excellence in Safety and Risk Management

Based on the performance of Stair-PRO, Charleston County replaced 25 existing ambulance cots with new Stryker Power-PRO powered ambulance cots in 2006. Hodge stated, "We're closely monitoring the results of our new cots over a two-year period and hopefully can report similar positive results in both frequency and severity reduction comparisons."

Annual Number of Staff Injuries Related to Transporting Patients on the Stairs*



* Charleston County EMS purchased 23 Stair-PRO stair chairs in October 2004 and 25 Power-PRO™ powered ambulance cots in November 2006. Study conducted through April 2007.

About Charleston County EMS Department

Total number of employees	173
Average number of calls annually	50,000
Rate of transport	65 – 68%
Number of Stryker Power-PRO cots	25
Number of Stryker Stair-PRO chairs	23

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**Don Lundy
EMS Director**

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3800 E. Centre Ave.
Portage, MI 49002 U.S.A.
t: 269 329 2100 f: 269 329 2315
toll free: 800 784 4336

www.ems.stryker.com

BackSmart® Equipment Powers Positive Results

Some of the benefits that the new Stryker Stair-PROs have provided Charleston County EMS include:

- Increased productivity by reducing lost and modified days
- Substantial reduction in rotator cuff and back injuries
- Advantages in employee job satisfaction and retention

Other EMS Providers Realizing Benefits

Charleston County EMS isn't the only EMS provider benefiting from the Stryker Power-PRO and Stair-PRO advantages. Other EMS departments at municipal, public and private agencies across the United States are realizing similar benefits. Deployment of these proven technologies helps minimize the risk of operator injury and leads to a savings in operating costs.

As part of its normal process to obtain feedback from its customers, the Stryker EMS Equipment division polled a wide range of EMS directors to gain a better understanding of the impact of the Power-PRO powered ambulance cot and Stair-PRO stair chair on EMS service operations.

Participants, who represent EMS services with as few as 215 calls to as many as 113,000 calls annually, experienced a significant decrease in job-related injuries. After deployment of Stryker Power-PRO and Stair-PRO, average yearly job-related injuries and patient drops decreased significantly.

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

Stryker Power-PRO Key Features

- Raise and lower patients using your finger, not your back
- BackSmart® ergonomic design minimizes the risk of injury
- High-speed retract adds efficiency
- Battery powered with manual back-up
- Retractable head section for increased maneuverability

Stryker Stair-PRO Key Features

- Eliminates lifting when moving patients down stairs
- BackSmart design promotes proper body mechanics
- Folds to compact size