

## Charleston County EMS

### EMS Equipment

# Charleston County EMS Saves Over \$400,000 in Injuries with Power-PRO™ XT and Stair-PRO®

### First, Savings with Stair-PRO

Charleston County EMS workers are called upon to respond to more than 50,000 ambulance calls annually, on a 24/7 schedule. In October of 2004, Charleston County EMS implemented the Stryker Stair-PRO as part of their strain injury reduction campaign. The results of this initiative are summarized in the case study, “EMS Injuries Fall to Zero After Implementing Stryker Stair-PRO Stair Chairs” found at [www.ems.stryker.com/media/pdf/charleston\\_case\\_study.pdf](http://www.ems.stryker.com/media/pdf/charleston_case_study.pdf)

### Then, Savings with Power-PRO XT

Based on the performance of the Stryker Stair-PRO, Charleston County EMS replaced 25 existing manual ambulance cots with the Stryker Power-PRO XT powered ambulance cots in November of 2006. Prior to implementation,

**... the new products are simply outstanding and are saving our backs!**

Charleston County EMS was experiencing 19 injuries and 470 lost workdays per year due to lifting patients. The following year, injuries dropped to 6 and lost workdays dropped to 256.

Within one year, injuries from lifting patients dropped 68 percent and lost workdays dropped 48 percent. The effort resulted in a savings of over \$400,000 in Workers’ Compensation insurance in 2008. Charleston County EMS was quick to recognize that these numbers don’t address the costs associated with the additional overtime needed when a medic is out due to injury!

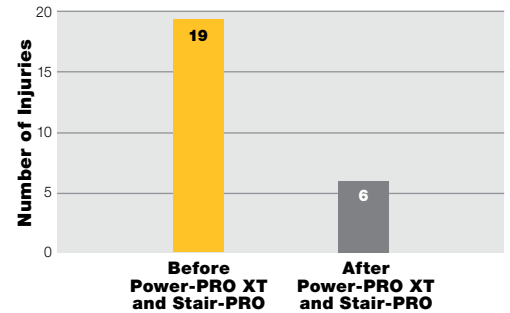
### Outcome

The county government’s Risk Management Director, Larry Hodge, won the 2008 South Carolina Public Risk Manager of the Year award, due to the dramatic impact his strategic decisions are making on the service and the county. “The Charleston County Safety and Risk Management Department has benefitted taxpayers by significantly reducing Workers’ Compensation premiums through recent injury reduction strategies and initiatives,” said Jennifer Graham, President of the South Carolina Public Risk and Insurance Management Association.

In addition to winning the Public Risk Manager of the Year award, the Charleston County Safety and Risk Management Department also won the 2007 Safety Achievement Award, the 2007 Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award and the 2007 Service Award from the South Carolina Association of Counties.

EMS Director Don Lundy understands that injuries are due to frequent exertion and fatigue failure over time. Proper equipment such as the Power-PRO XT and Stair-PRO reduce the spinal load that medics experience on a daily basis thus increasing their margin of safety and reducing injuries.

Annual Number of Staff Injuries\*



\* Charleston County EMS purchased 23 Stair-PRO stair chairs in October 2004 and 25 Power-PRO XT powered ambulance cots in November 2006.

### About Charleston County EMS Department

Total number of employees	173
Average number of calls annually	50,000
Number of Stryker Power-PRO XT cots	25
Number of Stryker Stair-PRO chairs	23

**“The Stryker stair chair and stretcher have significantly reduced injuries to our employees. These two pieces of equipment have changed how we do EMS!”**

**Don Lundy  
EMS Director  
Charleston County**

**EMS Equipment**

Charleston County EMS utilizes the Power-PRO XT and Stair-PRO as a recruitment and retention tool. New hires are focused on the latest technology and veteran employees take pride in knowing that Charleston is concerned about their safety. As a service, Charleston County EMS will continue to be proactive in ensuring they take steps to promote patient and medic safety.

Charleston County EMS isn't the only EMS provider benefiting from the Stryker Power-PRO XT and Stair-PRO. 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.

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

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**Stryker Power-PRO XT  
Key Features**

- Raise and lower patients using your finger, not your back
- BackSmart<sup>®</sup> 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