

CASE STUDY

EMS > Case #503

350lb Patient with Bilateral Rotator Cuff Injuries

Binder Lift provides a safe way for paramedics to lift patient with pre-existing injuries

Location	Eau Claire Fire Rescue, Eau Claire, WI
Clinician Reporting	Tony Biasi, Firefighter Paramedic
Patient Event	Obese patient with pre-existing injuries lying supine in need of lift assistance

> The Situation

Eau Claire Fire Fighters responded to a call where the patient was at home and in need of medical attention. They arrived to find a 5' and 350lb female patient lying supine and unable to get herself up. Due to the patients chronic bilateral rotator cuff injuries the fire fighters were not able to put lifting pressure on the patient's upper extremities. The Binder Lift had only been on the ambulance for 2 weeks prior to this call where it proved to be an invaluable resource in getting the patient to her feet. Once the Patient was on her feet she was able to take her own weight and move with little assistance.



> The Binder Lift Difference

Fire and EMS have been lifting patients with a variety of improvised methods since the beginning of pre-hospital medicine. These improvised methods have evolved over the years, but the common denominator among them is that they are just that, improvised. To be a proficient medic, one has to be able to think outside of the box and improvise when necessary. However whenever the right tool for the job is available, measures should be taken to utilize such a device. *Improvised* lifting techniques typically place the rescuer and/or the patient at risk of injury. On this call three fire fighters were able to lift the patient with relative ease because they all had handles to grab which allowed them to team lift with proper lifting posture.

“The Binder Lift is easy to put on and easy to lift with. Using the handles, proper lifting methods can be utilized more so than if you are using a soft stretcher or open lifter.”

-- Tony Biasi, Firefighter Paramedic