

Patient With History of Falling Puts Paramedics At Elevated Risk of Injury....

Binder Lift helps paramedics lift obese patient off bathroom floor

Location Lancaster EMS, Lancaster County, SC

Clinician Reporting Tim Clemmer, Paramedic

Patient Event Obese patient with no reported injury in need of lift assistance

> The Situation

Lancaster County paramedics responded to a 911 call with an address that was all too familiar. They had been paged to this address multiple times in the recent months to help an obese patient get up after falling from her chair. However, this time she did not just fall from her chair. Today she was stuck on the bathroom floor and unable to get back on her feet. Because the small bathroom offered limited space the two paramedics were not just faced with lifting a heavy person, but the small bathroom offers very limited space to work. Traditional lifting methods would require one medic to squeeze behind the patient, reach underneath her arms, grasp her hands, and lift using primarily their shoulders and back. The second medic would stand nearby, helping however they could and hoping their partner would not become yet another statistic of medics who retired early due to a back injury. But this time it's a different scenario all together. This time, they had the Binder Lift.



> The Binder Lift Difference

The Binder Lift's 360-degree handles allowed the medics to team lift while using the strength in their legs and not their backs. By performing a vertical lift, and keeping the patient close to their bodies, proper lifting practices were finally made possible. According to Tim Clemmer the Binder Lift prevents injuries in his department by having plenty of handles that allow crew members to pick up the patient evenly, regardless of height difference between partners. "It also prevents the crew from having to pick the patient up under the arms," said Clemmer. "This protects the patient from possible injury during movement." After experiencing the new way of lifting with the Binder Lift, the paramedics at Lancaster County never again want to go back to their old methods of picking up patients.

"I've received nothing but positive feedback on the use of the Binder Lift. Everyone agrees that it makes lifting the patient easier and safer."

-- Tim Clemmer