

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

BURLCO JIF JULY 2011



LIFTING CLAIMS OVERVIEW

In Workers' Compensation claims, many employees are injured due to lifting-related incidents. While we expect this to happen in the public works, maintenance and building and grounds employee population, it is also prevalent in the police, fire and EMT groups. Here are just a few employee injury claim statistics related to such injuries:

- From January 1, 2006 through July 13, 2011, over 36 lifting-related injury claims sustained by police, fire and EMT/EMS personnel were reported to Scibal on behalf of the Burlco JIF members
- Most lifting-related injuries for this group were related to lifting of patients
- Lifting-related injuries resulted in serious injuries to most body parts including neck, back, knee, arm, shoulder, wrist, leg, abdomen and all large muscle groups
- Injuries included strains, sprains, tears, laceration and ruptures
- The total incurred (paid plus reserved) for these lifting-related injuries is **\$1,087,994.10**
- Medical payments to date on these claims total **\$300,534.79** and continue...
- Over 30% of these claimants were awarded a permanent disability rating: the average award was 28%.
- This group of employees lost a total of **1,581** work days in this five year period=4.33 work years!
- Safety tip: Proper lifting prevents injuries!

