

Things to Do Before Training

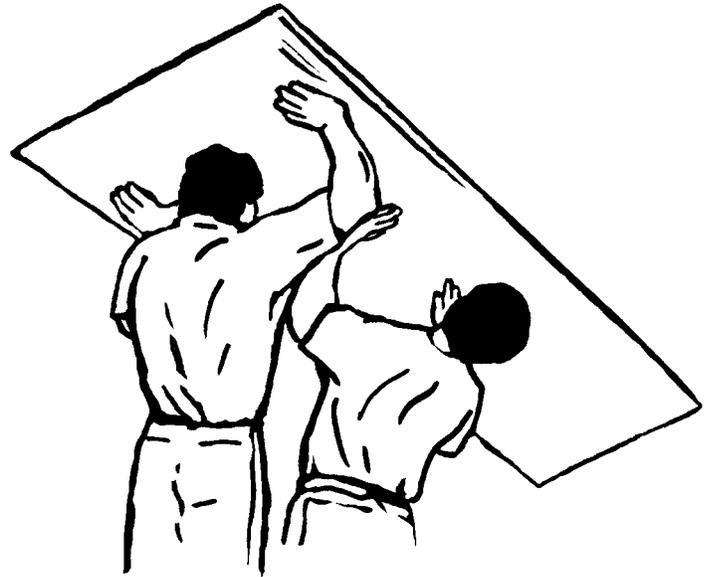
- ▶ Take an inventory of tools (lifts, dollies, carrying handles, etc.) the company has for lifting or carrying heavy loads.
- ▶ Review stretching exercises on back of card.

Introduction

Every day we carry materials – light and heavy loads, bend over for tools, hold materials and tools above our heads.

These tasks take their toll. Sprains and strains account for 38% of lost work day injuries in construction.

Back injuries shorten the careers and reduce the quality of life of many construction workers.



QUESTIONS TO ASK

- ▶ What kinds of injuries have you seen that are related to lifting or carrying? How could they have been prevented?
- ▶ What tools and equipment do we have that can make lifting or carrying easier?
- ▶ What are some of the materials on this job that could be lifted or carried differently?
- ▶ How can we arrange for materials to be delivered and placed as close as possible to where they will be used?

SAFETY BREAK

ACTIONS TO TAKE

- ▶ Practice how to lift by squatting down, keeping your back straight, and lifting with the legs, not the back.
- ▶ Practice the stretching exercises below.

Key Points to Keep in Mind

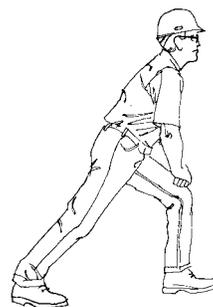
- Stretching helps to loosen and warm up muscles.** Just as athletes do prior to competition, it is a good idea to warm up your muscles before starting to work.
- Tools (like a dolly, a lift, or a carrying tool) make the job easier.** Use them.
- It is always **better if two or more people handle heavy materials.**
- It is easier to lift materials that are at waist level,** so if possible stack materials on an elevated platform.
- Lifting should be done with the legs,** not the back.
- Pick up your feet and pivot to turn. Don't twist your back.
- Always set up the job site so that **materials are placed in a safe place as close as possible to where they will be used.**
- Frequent breaks and rests help cut down on injuries.**
- Don't have one or two people do all the carrying and lifting; **rotate workers so that everyone gets a break from the heavy work.**



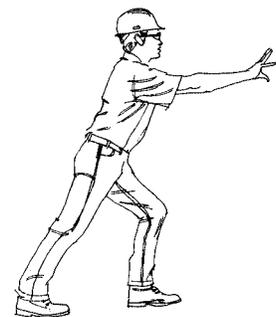
WALKING IN PLACE
FOR BACK CARE



ARM CIRCLES



HIP STRETCH



CALF STRETCH



KNEE TO CHEST



THIGH STRETCH