



## Common Control Strategies Emergency Service Organization

Among Emergency Service Organization safety group members, the three most common causes of injury are strain, miscellaneous causes and fall/slip or trip. The three causes of injury with the highest average claim costs are miscellaneous causes, burns and industrial hygiene.

Texas Mutual recommends that you implement control strategies to protect your employees from these causes of injury. You can use the free safety resources available through the [texasmutual.com](http://texasmutual.com) Safety Resource Center to implement new company policies, train employees, and document your safety activities.

### Strain:

- Train employees in safe lifting procedures and team lifts for moving patients and ladders
- Instruct employees to utilize patient lift devices (i.e. sliding boards, transfer cot with handles, transfer board, ambulation assist device, and descent control system)
- Use the "Back Injury Prevention: You're in Control" online video to train employees on material handling safety
- Review the "Back Safety: Posture; Mechanics; Exercise" handout with employees

### Fall/Slip or Trip:

- Train employees to properly slant truck mounted ladders
- Have employees practice and utilize tying-in techniques
- Install nonskid materials on floors and stairs
- Provide safety straps to any firefighters who continue to ride on tailboards
- Implement and enforce footwear policy and issue turnout boots and shoes that are slip resistant
- Develop a housekeeping schedule for fire and EMS stations and conduct documented inspections
- Ensure spills are cleaned up immediately and post or place "wet floor" signs out are may be required to highlight area
- Train all exposed employees on the proper use and placement of ladders and step stools

### Miscellaneous Causes:

- Play the "Eye Safety: No Second Chances" online video during an upcoming safety meeting
- Review the "Eye and Face Protection" toolbox talk with employees
- Complete regularly scheduled inspections of all personal protective equipment

### Industrial Hygiene:

- Use the "Bloodborne Pathogen Program" sample program to develop procedures for avoiding needle sticks and responding to needle sticks appropriately
- Provide appropriate containers for sharps disposal throughout your facility
- Train all employees on safe operating practices for all the medical tools and equipment that they will be assigned to operate
- Complete hazard analysis and determine need/use of specific personal protective equipment

### Burns/Scald Heat or Cold:

- Implement a hazard communication program using the "Hazard Communication Program" template
- Cover Hazard Communication during new employee orientation training and training/safety meetings
- Complete a hazard assessment of personal protective equipment needs for training and live response
- Train, refresh training and manage/require use of personal protective equipment when prescribed/determined to be needed during training exercises and live response



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