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# Building Maintenance & Safety Products

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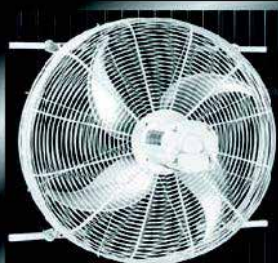


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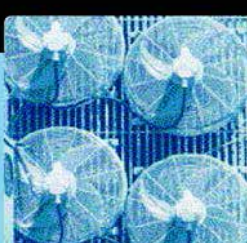
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# Preventing Work Place Lifting Injuries:



## Why Speed Should Never Come Before Safety

In warehouses, hospitals, construction sites, retail backrooms, farms, factories, and delivery operations, lifting is a routine part of work. Boxes must be moved, patients repositioned, supplies restocked, tools carried, and materials loaded. Because lifting is so common, it is often treated as a basic physical task rather than a serious safety issue. Yet some of the most persistent and costly workplace injuries begin with something deceptively ordinary: lifting too much, lifting too often, lifting awkwardly, or lifting too fast.

Among the many factors that contribute to lifting injuries, work pace deserves much more attention than it usually gets. When employees are pushed to move faster, meet unrealistic quotas, rush through understaffed shifts, or keep up with nonstop production demands, the risk of injury rises sharply. Safe lifting is not just about teaching people to “lift with the legs.” It is also about creating working conditions in which people have enough time, enough support, and enough recovery to handle physical demands properly.

Too often, organizations frame lifting injuries as individual mistakes. If a worker strains their back, pulls a shoulder, or develops chronic pain, the question becomes: Did they use proper technique? Did they ask for help? Did they follow training? Those questions matter, but they are incomplete. A more honest question is this: What kind of work system made that injury more likely? If the pace of work leaves no time to position the body correctly, get assistance, use equipment, or pause when fatigue sets in, then the problem is not just the individual worker. The problem is the pace of work itself.



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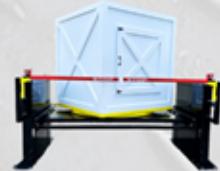
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This is why preventing work pace lifting injuries requires a broader shift in thinking. Employers must stop treating speed and safety as separate issues. They are directly connected. In many workplaces, the pressure to move quickly quietly undermines every safety rule that appears on paper. A company can provide manual handling training, post lifting reminders on the wall, and issue policies about team lifts—but if the daily reality is “go faster,” workers receive a different message. The real priority becomes clear, and the body pays the price.

### ***The Hidden Cost of “Hurry Up”***

Fast-paced lifting creates risk in several ways. First, rushing reduces attention to body mechanics. Workers are more likely to twist while carrying, reach from awkward angles, lift loads from the floor without setting their stance, or carry items beyond what is comfortable simply because stopping to reset feels like falling behind. Small shortcuts that seem harmless in the moment can accumulate into major injuries over time.

Second, a fast pace increases fatigue. Muscles tire, grip weakens, posture slips, and judgment deteriorates. A task that is manageable for the first hour may become risky by the sixth, especially when breaks are short or skipped. Repetition compounds the problem. Even lighter loads can lead to strain if they are handled hundreds of times under time pressure. Many lifting injuries do not come from one dramatic event. They develop gradually through repeated overexertion.

Third, work pace discourages communication. In a healthy safety culture, workers should feel free to say, “This is too heavy,” “I need another person,” or “We need equipment for this.” But in a high-pressure environment, asking for help may be seen as slowing down the line, disappointing a supervisor, or burdening coworkers who are already overwhelmed. The result is predictable: people attempt lifts alone that should never be done alone.

Fourth, excessive pace often leads to poor planning. Materials are stacked badly, heavy items are stored too low or too high, pathways are cluttered, and mechanical aids are unavailable, blocked, or considered inconvenient. When speed dominates operations, ergonomic design starts to look optional. But ergonomic failures are not minor inconveniences; they are injury multipliers.

### ***Why Training Alone Is Not Enough***

Workplaces often respond to lifting injuries with more training. Training has value, but it cannot solve structural problems by itself. A worker may know exactly how to lift safely and still get hurt if the load is too heavy, the object too bulky, the aisle too narrow, the floor uneven, the shift too long, or the performance target too aggressive. Knowledge does not cancel out unsafe conditions.

There is also a tendency to oversimplify lifting advice. “Lift with your legs, not your back” has become a familiar slogan, but real-world lifting is more complex than a slogan can capture. Loads are rarely perfectly shaped. Space is often limited. Objects may shift unexpectedly. Workers may have to push, pull, lower, carry, or reach, not simply lift. Some tasks involve repeated handling in awkward postures that no amount of basic training can neutralize.

This is why injury prevention must move upstream. Instead of asking only how workers can lift more safely under pressure, employers should ask how to reduce the pressure itself. That means examining production goals, staffing levels, workflow design, storage layout, break schedules, lift frequency, load weights, and access to lifting aids. If the system remains unsafe, repeated reminders about technique will do little more than shift blame onto workers.

### ***The Role of Management***

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Supervisors decide how many people are assigned to a task, how success is measured, how breaks are handled, and whether safety concerns are welcomed or dismissed. Senior leaders decide whether equipment investments are made, whether injury reporting is encouraged, and whether staffing is sufficient for physical demands.

If managers reward only speed, workers will adapt accordingly. If performance reviews emphasize output while ignoring safe practices, employees will understand what really matters. This is not because workers do not care about safety. It is because they respond rationally to incentives, pressure, and job insecurity. A person trying to keep a job, finish a route, satisfy a supervisor, or avoid criticism is more likely to push beyond safe limits.

Preventing lifting injuries therefore requires leadership that is willing to measure and manage the right things. Near misses should be taken seriously. Reports of fatigue, strain, and difficult lifts should trigger review, not skepticism. Injury prevention should include frontline input, because the people doing the lifting usually know where the risks are long before management sees them in a report. A strong safety culture is not one in which workers are endlessly reminded to be careful. It is one in which the organization removes as many hazards as possible before relying on human caution. In the context of lifting, that means reducing manual handling where possible, slowing the pace when necessary, and designing jobs around realistic human limits.

### ***Practical Ways to Prevent Work Pace Lifting Injuries***

The good news is that many lifting injuries are preventable. But prevention depends on practical action, not generic statements about safety.

First, assess the job, not just the worker. Employers should identify which tasks involve frequent lifts, awkward postures, long carries, heavy loads, or time

pressure. Risk assessment should focus on actual workflow conditions, including peak periods, staffing shortages, and end-of-shift fatigue.

Second, redesign the work. Heavy items should be stored between knee and chest height whenever possible. Frequently handled materials should be kept close to the point of use. Layout changes that reduce carrying distance, bending, reaching, or twisting can significantly lower injury risk.

Third, use mechanical aids consistently. Dollies, pallet jacks, hoists, lift tables, conveyor systems, slide sheets, adjustable carts, and patient handling equipment can reduce manual strain dramatically. But equipment only helps if it is available, maintained, easy to access, and treated as part of normal work rather than an optional delay.

Fourth, set realistic pace expectations. Production goals should reflect the physical reality of the task. If a target can only be met by rushing lifts, skipping help, or avoiding equipment, it is not a safe target. Employers should study how long tasks actually take when done properly and build expectations accordingly.

Fifth, staff adequately. Understaffing is one of the most common and least acknowledged drivers of lifting injuries. When fewer workers are expected to do the same physical work, pace rises automatically. Team lifts become solo lifts. Recovery time disappears. Fatigue deepens. Adequate staffing is not just an operational concern; it is a core injury-prevention strategy.

Sixth, encourage early reporting. Workers should be able to report soreness, strain, or unsafe lifting conditions before those problems become severe injuries. Early reporting systems must be free from punishment, because people will hide symptoms if they fear blame, lost hours, or retaliation.

Seventh, rotate tasks when possible. Repetitive lift-



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ing becomes more dangerous when the same muscles and joints are stressed continuously. Thoughtful task rotation can help reduce cumulative fatigue, though it must be planned carefully so it actually changes physical demands rather than merely shifting where they occur.

Eighth, protect rest and recovery. Breaks matter. So do shift length, overtime practices, and scheduling patterns. Tired workers are more vulnerable workers. A workplace cannot claim to take lifting safety seriously while also normalizing exhaustion.

Ninth, involve workers in solutions. The people doing the job often know which objects are hardest to handle, which times of day are most rushed, which equipment is missing, and which safety procedures are unrealistic. Consultation should be ongoing, specific, and acted upon.

### *The Human and Economic Stakes*

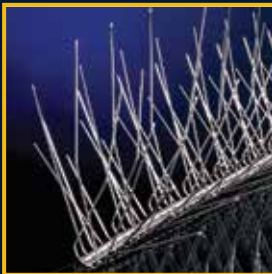
Lifting injuries are often discussed in terms of compliance costs, workers' compensation claims, and lost productivity. Those are real issues, but they do not capture the full human impact. A back injury can alter sleep, mobility, mental health, family responsibilities, and future employment. What begins as "just a strain" may become chronic pain that follows someone for years. Workers may lose income, confidence, or the ability to continue in a physically demanding role they once handled with pride. The effects spread beyond the injured worker. Co-workers must absorb extra duties. Teams become more short-staffed, which can accelerate the pace even further and create a cycle of additional injuries. Employers lose experienced staff, face turnover, and pay the price for preventable disruption. In that sense, a lifting injury is rarely an isolated event. It is often evidence of a system already under too much strain.



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Organizations that genuinely want to improve performance should pay attention to this. A safer pace is not the enemy of productivity. In many settings, it is a condition for sustainable productivity. Injured workers, burnout, turnover, and repeated disruptions are expensive. So is the constant churn of replacing people who leave physically punishing jobs. A workplace that protects its employees from overexertion is more likely to retain skilled workers, maintain quality, and perform consistently over time.

### Changing the Culture

One of the hardest barriers to prevention is cultural. In many industries, speed is worn as a badge of honor. Workers may pride themselves on pushing through pain, taking on extra weight, or “getting it done” without assistance. Supervisors may praise toughness while overlooking the long-term damage such attitudes create. In male-dominated sectors especially, there can be a lingering expectation that asking for help is weakness rather than professionalism.

That culture has to change. Safe lifting is not about toughness; it is about judgment, design, teamwork, and respect for human limits. The strongest worker in the room is still vulnerable to repetitive strain, awkward loads, and fatigue. No amount of grit changes biomechanics. Bodies are not machines, and even machines fail faster when overloaded and rushed.

Changing culture means changing what is rewarded. Workers should be recognized not only for effort and output but also for using equipment, asking for assistance, identifying hazards, and stopping unsafe tasks. Supervisors should be trained to see pace pressure as a risk factor, not just a performance tool. When someone says a lift is unsafe, the proper response should be problem-solving, not impatience.

### A Smarter Standard for Safety

Preventing work pace lifting injuries ultimately comes down to one principle: safe work must be possible within the normal pace of the job. If safety



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only works in theory, during training, or on lightly loaded days, then it does not really exist. A safe system is one in which ordinary production demands can be met without routinely asking workers to gamble with their backs, shoulders, and joints.

This requires honesty. It means acknowledging that many lifting injuries are not random accidents and not simply the result of workers being careless. They are foreseeable outcomes of jobs designed around speed without enough regard for human capacity. Once that truth is accepted, the path forward becomes clearer.

Employers need to treat pace as an ergonomic issue. Safety professionals need to examine workload and staffing as closely as they examine posture and load weight. Policymakers and regulators need to recognize that injury prevention is undermined when organizations chase efficiency without limits. And workers need the authority to slow down, ask for help, and use proper equipment without fearing punishment.

The broader lesson reaches beyond lifting. Any workplace that treats people as if they can perform

physical tasks indefinitely at high speed is building injury into the system. Prevention begins when organizations stop asking, "How do we get more out of workers?" and start asking, "How do we design work that people can do safely, well, and sustainably?"

That is the real standard worth aiming for. Not simply fewer reported injuries, but better work. Not just faster output, but healthier workers. Not a culture of hurry, but a culture of responsibility. When pace is managed wisely, lifting becomes safer, jobs become more sustainable, and workers are treated not as expendable bodies in motion, but as human beings whose health is inseparable from the quality of the workplace itself. •



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# Preventing Slip and Falls in the Workplace

Slip and fall accidents may seem like minor workplace incidents, but in reality they are among the most common causes of injury on the job. A wet floor, loose cable, poor lighting, or uneven surface can turn an ordinary workday into a serious emergency. These accidents do not just harm workers physically; they also reduce productivity, increase medical costs, and create stress for both employees and employers. That is why preventing slip and fall accidents should be a top priority in every workplace.

Too often, these incidents are dismissed as simple carelessness. In truth, most slip and fall accidents happen because proper safety measures are not in place. Employers have a responsibility to keep work areas clean, dry, and free from hazards. Spills should be cleaned immediately, warning signs should be posted clearly, and walkways should remain free of clutter. Floors should be maintained regularly, and damaged surfaces should be repaired before they cause harm.

Employees also play an important role in prevention. Workers should follow safety rules, wear appropriate footwear, and report unsafe conditions as soon as they notice them. A culture of safety is strongest when everyone understands that prevention is a shared responsibility. One ignored hazard can lead to an injury that affects not only one worker, but an entire team.



Training is another essential part of workplace safety. Employees need to know how to recognize risks and how to respond to them. Safety meetings, regular inspections, and clear communication can help prevent accidents before they happen. When workers are informed and alert, the chance of injury is greatly reduced.

Preventing slip and falls is not just about avoiding lawsuits or cutting costs. It is about respecting the health and dignity of workers. Every employee deserves a workplace where basic safety is tak-

en seriously. A company that invests in prevention shows that it values its people, not just its profits.

In the end, slip and fall accidents are not unavoidable. With proper attention, good maintenance, and shared responsibility, many of these injuries can be prevented. Workplace safety should never be treated as an afterthought. It should be part of the foundation of every successful organization. •



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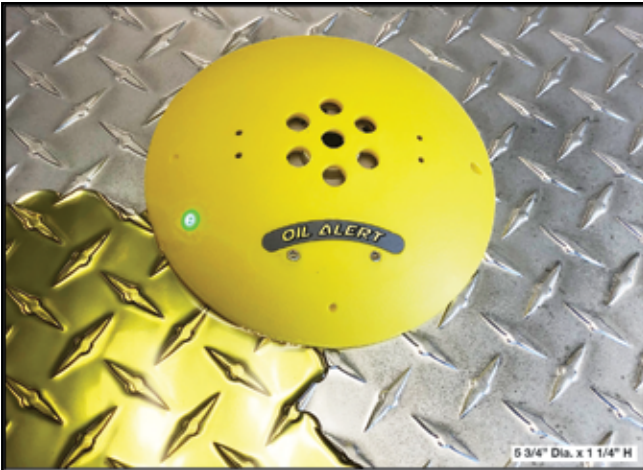
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*The Dual Mezzanine Safety Gate that Takes Up No Space on the Work Platform*



- WORKS AT YOUR CURRENT PLATFORM HEIGHT
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- SELF-CLOSING INNER GATE
- ARTICULATING INNER GATE, FULL PALLET ACCESS
- OUTER GATE ENSURES LEADING EDGE PROTECTION
- BASE PLATE HAS BUILT-IN TOE KICK
- SMALLER FOOTPRINT THAN THE E7
- CUSTOM SIZES AND STAINLESS STEEL AVAILABLE
- US PATENT 11,174,605
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

## LEVELIZER® E3

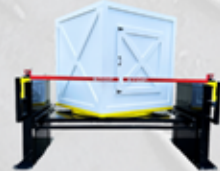
THE ONLY SAFETY GATE YOU CAN'T LEAVE OPEN



- UTILIZES SPACE BETWEEN FORKS AND PALLET
- FULLY AUTOMATIC, NO ELECTRIC/HYDRAULIC
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE AVAILABLE IN STAINLESS
- CAN'T LEAVE OPEN BECAUSE IT DOESN'T OPEN
- EASY INSTALLATION. BOLT OR WELD IN PLACE
- CUSTOM SIZES AND STAINLESS STEEL AVAILABLE
- US PATENT 9,938,736
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## LEVELIZER® CUBE

*The Ergonomic Hybrid Mezzanine Safety Gate with Self-Leveling Workstation*



- DUAL GATE SYSTEM FOR UP & DOWN FLOW
- ARTICULATING INNER GATE FULL PALLET ACCESS
- SELF-LEVELING PLATFORM
- LAZY SUSAN PLATFORM FOR 360 PALLET ACCESS
- CANTILEVER DECK-EASY ACCESS TO PALLET
- SMALL FOOTPRINT ON MEZZANINE
- VARIABLE WEIGHT CAPACITIES AVAILABLE
- US PATENT PENDING
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

## LEVELIZER® E7

*The Dual Mezzanine Safety Gate that Takes Up No Space on the Work Platform*



- WORKS AT YOUR CURRENT PLATFORM HEIGHT
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- SELF-CLOSING INNER GATE
- OMNI-ROLLERS FOR PRODUCT PROTECTION
- ARTICULATING INNER GATE, FULL PALLET ACCESS
- OUTER RED GATE HAS A BUILT-IN TOE KICK
- US PATENT 11,174,605
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

## LEVELIZER® FLOWGATE

*Maximum Gate Opening and Full Pallet Access*



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- WORKS AT YOUR CURRENT PLATFORM HEIGHT
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- ARTICULATING GATE FOR FULL PALLET ACCESS
- DUAL UP AND DOWN CARGO FLOW
- OMNI-ROLLERS FOR PRODUCT PROTECTION
- US PATENT PENDING
- OSHA 1910.29 COMPLIANT

## LEVELIZER® CUBE 0

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- SAFETY GATE SYSTEM FOR UP & DOWN FLOW
- ARTICULATING GATES FOR FULL PALLET ACCESS
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- LAZY SUSAN PLATFORM FOR 360 PALLET ACCESS
- CANTILEVER DECK-EASY ACCESS TO PALLET
- DESIGNED FOR MIXED MATERIAL LOADS
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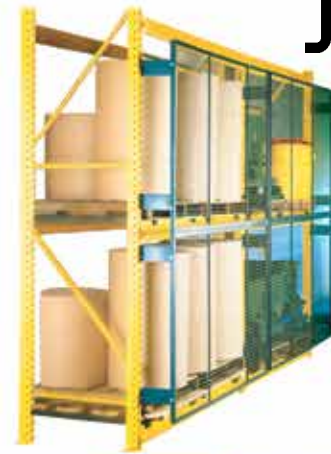
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## **jescopALLETGARD®**

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