



## New Power Lift making a big difference for EMTs

The Davenport EMS crew recently received some extra muscle with the purchase of a Power Lift Pro gurney.

"This thing is better than sliced bread," laughs EMT Eric Cassidy. "It can lift up to 700 pounds at the push of a button which makes the job a lot safer for us and the patient."

Back injuries among EMS workers are often thought of as just part of the package. "We do a lot of heavy lifting," says Eric. "And the majority of our crew is made up of women."

Eric says that on any call, EMS crew is called upon to make five lifts. "The first is to get the patient onto the gurney. The second is to bring the gurney to ride height and into rolling position. Then we need to lift the patient and gurney into the ambulance, then lift them out once we get to the hospital." Finally, they must transfer patients from the gurney onto the ER table.

The Power Lift makes these lifts a breeze.

"What I like best about it is that during the loading and unloading of patients we can raise or lower the gurney to perfectly match bed height. Those are the hardest lifts with the most potential for injury to us and the patient."

And patients in pain are jostled less because the lift mechanism is so smooth.

"It is powered by a 24 volt rechargeable battery and is very efficient," says Eric. "It decreases the potential for lift injuries by 80 percent. That's a huge difference in safety for everyone on the scene."

So far, the crew only has one Power Lift, but Eric says they hope to get another one in the future.

"We got a special deal on this one," says Eric of the \$9,000 price tag. "So the next one will likely cost a little more, but it will be well worth it."

The hospital district used a \$7,000 trauma grant to pay for the gurney, and the Davenport Ambulance Crew added another \$2,000 from the money earned at the hamburger stand at the Lincoln County Fair. "There are a lot of cheeseburgers in that gurney," laughs Eric. "Community support of the burger barn makes a lot of projects not in the budget possible."

