

UNDERLYING CAUSES OF INJURIES:

Marie's Story



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Marie is a food service worker in the central kitchen of a large school district. She uses a 6-foot high cart to move trays of food and dishes. When things are busy, the staff needs to keep the carts completely loaded so they can make as few trips as possible. When full, the cart weighs several hundred pounds.

Staff are told to push (not pull) their carts to put less strain on the back. When the carts are full, Marie can't see around her cart when she pushes and worries about hitting people. It's also hard to push the heavy cart over the areas where the floor tiles have cracked or separated.



Because she had to twist her body to pull the cart, Marie suffered a lower back injury. She was reprimanded by her supervisor for not following proper procedures.

Directions

Read the story and then work in your small groups to answer the questions below.

1. What are some possible underlying reasons why Marie didn't follow the procedures?

2. What are some possible solutions to these underlying issues?
