

MANUAL HANDLING RISK ASSESSMENT – BARIATRIC MANIKIN

Activity/tasks

The lifting and movement of bariatric manikins during training exercises

1. Assessing the weight of the manikin
2. Lifting the manikin
3. Moving the manikin
4. Lowering the manikin

Hazards

Preparing to lift the manikin by testing the weight.

Larger than normal load to be lifted.

Lifting an abnormal load which is difficult to pick up and hard to lift close to the truck of the lifter.

Moving manikins up or down stairs.

Risks

Musculoskeletal injury due to size of load and the load is difficult to grasp hold of.

Crush injuries due to team member tripping, stumbling, and causing the dropping of manikin.

Fatigue

Control measures

Dynamic risk assessment to assess weight and working environment to establish if there are enough personnel to safely carryout lift.

Training of correct manual handling techniques. As detailed in the Fire Service Training Manual and Improvised safe systems of work using lines and ladders.

Use of specialist equipment to assist with lift. Only trained personnel to use equipment and load must not exceed safe working load

Ensure a brief is given to all staff involved in lift and any obstacles on route are pointed out.

Additional control measures

Staff to receive Manual Handling training with specific reference Casualty handling.

Appoint a safety officer to carry out an additional risk assessment and brief all staff of the findings.

The safety officer should then monitor the progress of the operation in accordance with the findings of the assessment.

Other issues to bear in mind even though the training only involves a manikin

Some morbidly obese patients cannot tolerate lying flat for more than 10 minutes, whilst some cannot tolerate it at all due to breathing difficulties which precludes this method of moving a patient.

Patient issues

Safety
Comfort
Dignity