Ergonomics

FOR STATE AGENCY AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITY OFFICE ERGONOMIC ASSESSORS

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Mobile worker ergonomic risks and solutions

By Laurie LaBrasseur, senior safety management consultant

Mobile electronic devices now allow workers to move away from the traditional workplace. As more employers embrace technology to do their work, it would be prudent to consider ergonomic risk factors involved with this transition. A number of postures are associated with such mobile devices as laptops, tablets, and smart phones.

You may often see employees hunched over devices with their hands in a cramped position like the "Stressed" photo below. Including a few peripherals in employees' mobile worker kits can help them move into the "Better" position, also illustrated below. Often we budget only for a mobile device and data plan, but these items should also be taken into consideration.

A laptop or tablet stand allows a mobile

Stressed

worker to adjust the monitor height, helping keep the head aligned over the shoulders in a neutral or restful posture.

An attachable or wireless keyboard allows the employee to place the keyboard in a position that lets the elbows rest more naturally at the side. The hands and wrists also are in a more neutral posture or position.

Finally, providing a wired or wireless mouse provides an opportunity to move the keyboard closer, which may help improve productivity.

The good news is that cost of these items has decreased, which makes creating a mobile ergonomic kit more economically feasible. The best news is that employees can work in better ergonomic positions throughout their workday.

Better



Congratulations to the following employees who completed their required assessments for Office Ergonomic Assessor certification.

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400 High St SE Salem, OR 97312 **P:** 800.285.8525 ergocert@saif.com

saif.com

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