

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER

PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

Back Safety

Keeping your back healthy and strong is something you need to keep in mind at work and outside of work. Here are a few tips to help maintain a healthy back regardless of where you are:

Avoid Awkward Positions and Lifting from Awkward Positions

Reaching and lifting items from above shoulder level.

Concentrate on Maintaining Good Posture

- Sit and stand so your back is in its natural S-shape alignment.
- Focus on holding your head straight and bringing your shoulders back.

Assess a Lift BEFORE Trying to Complete the Lift

• Get help if the load is too heavy. Utilize equipment that is available and ask a co-worker for assistance.

Utilize Good Body Mechanics

- Bend your body at the hips and knees.
- Strength should come from your legs.
- Keep the load close to your body.
- Use smooth motions throughout the lift.

Remember after you lift, pivot and don't twist!