

# NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

## Personal Injury When Lifting Test Equipment

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## Topic

Personal Injury When Lifting Test Equipment

## Description

When lifting a test set out of its case, a field worker tore a forearm muscle, resulting in the need for surgery. The test set weighs approximately 50 pounds and requires the technician to reach into the bottom of case to pull it out, which creates an awkward lifting situation.



## Lessons Learned

A 5-whys analysis—a technique used to uncover a root cause by asking “why?” five times, with each question building on the previous answer<sup>1</sup>—was performed and revealed the following:

1. Our company needs to reinforce the importance of proper lifting techniques and hazard identification (need to provide additional training).
2. We learned that the manufacturer provides, as part of its new test sets, a lifting strap, which makes the lift easier and less awkward.

## Actions Taken

1. Lifting straps were ordered for the company's test kits.

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Five whys," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Five\\_whys&oldid=1051238331](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Five_whys&oldid=1051238331) (accessed December 15, 2021).

2. Additional lifting training will be provided.
3. Currently evaluating other test-equipment manufacturers.

### Extent of Condition

To determine the extent of condition for this incident, all test equipment used by technicians was reviewed to determine if additional safety measures were needed.