

Manual handling: dangers to the patient and handlers

Its not just a problem with bariatric people,
just a bigger problem

People don't come with handles

Some sort of apparatus must be used

- Handling belts can be fitted around someone's waist and assist with sliding them
- A slide sheet is a piece of slippery fabric usually deployed in pairs or as a tube
- A carrying sheet (or a soot sheet)
- The Promove sling

Ad-hoc equipment

The days of rescuers using ad-hoc equipment such as tarpaulins to lift and move heavier casualties should be a thing of the past when dedicated equipment such as the Promove is available.

Technician Robert Bugg

Technical Rescue Unit

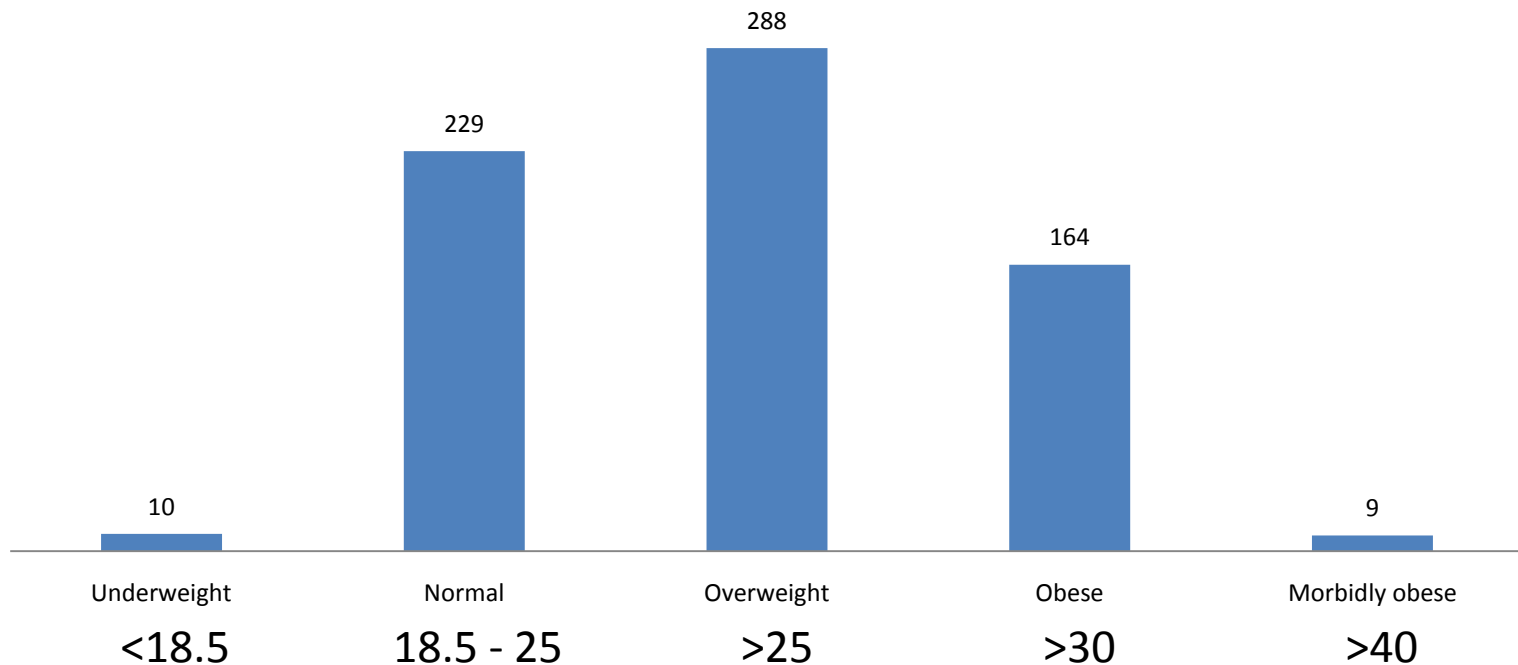
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service

Motorized

- A mobile hoist (with a sling)
- A Mangar Elk or Camel

People come in all sizes

Distribution by BMI of men in England – sample of 700



Two-thirds are overweight or bigger

Preparing for all eventualities

- 1.25% of population morbidly obese
- 23.25% obese

- Planning for the almost daily >20 stone
- The weekly/monthly >30 stone
- Occasional >40 stone
- Over >50 stone?
- Allocating resources for the daily or exceptional

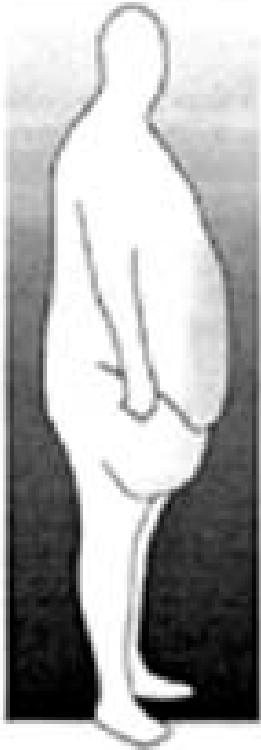
What are they like? Where are they?

- Giant:
large, stocky
individual with
reasonable physique
- Corpulent:
mass exceeds
capacity of skeleton
with folds of fat
created by gravity

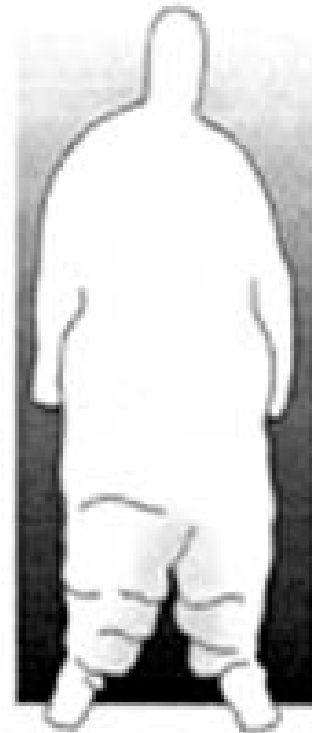
- Known bariatric
patients – homes
can be assessed and
management plan
put in place
- But motorist
weighing 35+ stone
off the road in a
ditch?

Size and shape

Apple pannus



Pear abduction



Examples of body shape

Size and location

- Risk assess home of known bariatric patients in advance
- People on the move – in RTCs, public buildings
- J is 6ft 7in., 37 stone = BMI 58, drives his own car

The Promove sling has proved to be invaluable to us when rescuing and moving larger casualties. It is easy to use and gives us a quick and simple method of getting sufficient hands on to enable a safe and stable lift. We are called out to around forty such incidents a year and regularly use the Promove to bring these incidents to a safe and dignified conclusion. – Technician Robert Bugg, West Midlands Fire Service

Combinations of equipment



Promove sling + slide sheet + Mangar Elk Cushion

“Use of the simple but effective Promove will contribute to the safety and wellbeing of both service users and staff within Falkirk Council’s MECS Service.” — Linda Macpherson, Team Manager, Falkirk Mobile Emergency Care Service.

Apnoea, apnea

Prolonged apnoea leads to severe lack of oxygen in the blood circulation. Permanent brain damage can occur after as little as three minutes and death will inevitably ensue after a few more minutes unless ventilation is restored.

Keep the patient in a raised position

- Bariatric patients often have low blood oxygen
- Restricted rib movement
- Upward pressure on diaphragm when flat
- "Bariatric people are vulnerable in many ways. They frequently have respiratory problems and placing them in a supine position can, in some instances, be life threatening." – Martyn Smith, former paramedic, now manual handling trainer

The seated position

The Promove is ideally suited to carrying out rescues when the casualty is in a seated position, such as road traffic collisions, due to it maintaining the casualty in a seated position. Robert Bugg, West Midlands Fire

Practical Demonstration

The new Bari-Kit™ from Promove provides everything for the first point of contact in moving and handling the bariatric patient, all in one bag:

1. Promove Evacuation Sling (ES) – suitable for almost all sizes, from an 11-year-old child to an obese adult; SWL 45 stone, 290 kg.
2. Promove Bariatric Sling (BS) – suitable for bariatric size adults; SWL 63 stone, 400 kg.
3. Promove *Super* Bariatric Sling (SBS) – suitable for bariatric size adults at the upper end of the range; SWL 63 stone, 400 kg.
4. Positioning strap – the 1.5 metre long, 100 mm wide stiffened webbing .
5. Padded lifting belt – 1 metre long, 200 mm wide soft belt with handles each end for lifting, carrying or repositioning.
6. Larger tubular slide sheet – 2 m long, 1 m wide.
7. Set of eight extension handles.
8. Promove Bari-Kit bag