Iron Mountain Uses Wearable Technology to Fortify a Top-Level Safety Culture

Reduces injuries by 64%
At leading storage and information management company Iron Mountain, the employees - endearingly called Mountaineers - live and breathe safety and security. In fact, one of the company’s compelling values is to “protect ourselves and each other from harm, and secure our customers’ assets as if they were our own.”

This commitment dates back to when the company launched as a means of protecting vital information from wars or other disasters. Their original storage facility was housed within a depleted ore mine, aptly named Iron Mountain. Today, organizations in every major industry and of all sizes trust the company with records and document management, data backup and recovery, secure shredding, and data center operations.

**SITUATION**

**Scaling Up Safety**

Although Iron Mountain’s foundational safety culture was strong, opportunities had emerged to galvanize their workplace safety program.

“We’re proud of our safety culture at Iron Mountain, but if we wanted to take it to the next level, we knew we had to try something different, something new,” said Don Keim, Director of Health and Safety, North America.

The company was looking to:

- reduce workplace injuries, 65% of which were musculoskeletal;
- increase the relevance of their training program outside of the classroom;
- increase positive coaching opportunities between supervisors and associates.

With over 24,000 Mountaineers, including drivers and material handling associates in their warehouses, leadership recognized the need for some powerful tools to help the team complete their journey to top-level safety.

**SOLUTION**

**Gearing Up for the Trek**

Iron Mountain turned to technology to augment their workforce with products designed to help workers perform their jobs more safely. To combat unhealthy postures - one of the greatest contributors to musculoskeletal injuries - the company outfitted over 400 Mountaineers in their Chicago market with Kinetic REFLEX wearable devices.

The REFLEX smart wearable:

- determines when workers are moving with incorrect posture using biomechanical analysis;
- alerts workers of excessive bending, twisting, or reaching with real-time feedback;
- provides management a workforce risk profile and actionable insights to reduce injuries through web dashboard analytics.
Reaching the Summit

By combining first-class wearable technology with their existing safety training, Iron Mountain realized:

- a 64% reduction in OSHA recordable injury rates for both drivers and warehouse associates year over year;
- a 58% reduction in their cost of worker’s compensation claims;
- a 5:1 ratio of dollars saved to dollars invested in Kinetic.

Supervisors also garnered benefits from the tech, using data to create meaningful coaching moments with associates.

After testing the Kinetic REFLEX device in five locations over 12 months, Iron Mountain expanded the use of the wearable to over 60 sites around North America, and is making it an integral part of its safety program and culture in the region.

“Safety doesn’t stop at the workplace, and we believe a culture of safety, where safety is top of mind, becomes part of the entire life of our Mountaineers. Kinetic better enables our safety 24/7 approach,” said Richard Ziegelhofer, Sr. Director of Operations Support, North America.

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When I went to sleep at night, I would have back pain. After moving right, I don’t have that pain anymore.

- ONE MOUNTAINEER’S SUCCESS

One Mountaineer was performing 389 high-risk postures per day. Over a 10 year period, that would result in nearly 1M high-risk postures! With Kinetic, the employee reduced their number to 38 per day - a 90% reduction.

Faced with new safety challenges during the Covid-19 health pandemic, Iron Mountain is piloting two newly-released features of the KINETIC Reflex device - Automated Proximity Alerts and Contact Tracing. The updated technology works to:

- alert employees whenever they come within six feet of each other, building awareness and providing on-the-spot training for social distancing;
- equip management with quick and accurate reports on interactions among employees for efficient contact tracing.

This additional functionality enhances Iron Mountain's existing social distancing protocols and allows Mountaineers to continue to protect themselves and others.
**CHALLENGE**
65% of Mountaineer injuries were musculoskeletal injuries

**APPROACH**
Iron Mountain deployed KINETIC Reflex wearable devices among 400+ drivers and warehouse associates, in 5 locations, for 12 months

**RESULTS**
64% reduction in OSHA recordable injuries; 58% reduction in cost of claims

**SUCCESS**
Iron Mountain expands use of KINETIC to 60+ sites as an integral part of its safety culture

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Learn how your company can benefit from the Kinetic REFLEX wearable today. Visit us at [wearkinetic.com](http://wearkinetic.com) or contact us at [info@wearkinetic.com](mailto:info@wearkinetic.com)