

Modified Work: Automotive Mechanic



Tips for helping injured workers perform safe and suitable work during their recovery process

If an injury occurs, returning to modified or alternate work helps with the worker’s ability to recover, and their physical and psychological wellbeing.

To identify suitable work, look closely at the worker’s job demands and compare them to their functional abilities (the worker should have a **Functional Abilities** form completed by a health care provider). Identify the barriers that prevent the return to work and decide if there can be changes made to overcome them. If the worker is unable to do their job duties with modifications, look for alternative work that is within their abilities. Make sure the worker has the skills and training to do the tasks.

Ways to overcome barriers may include tool or equipment modifications, for example, using a hoist to help with lifting.

Here are some other ideas for modified or alternate duties. They

have various physical demands associated with them. Make sure to review the worker’s functional limitations and restrictions to determine suitability:

Office work

- Paperwork and administrative tasks such as filing
- Answer phones – take incoming calls and messages. Transfer calls to appropriate extensions
- Schedule appointments for vehicle maintenance or repair
- Bill collection – call clients or customers to secure outstanding payments. Update information about when the payment was or will be made

Shop and mechanic helper

- Light mechanical duties – oil changes, air filters, etc.
- Service consultant – greet customers, input automobile information into the computer, including the make of vehicle, model, colour, mileage, warranty

information, customer comments, and notes on repairs to be completed. Call customers to follow up on completed work

- Equipment cleaner or tester – disassemble or reassemble and test parts
- Assist with troubleshooting and problem solving

Other types of work

- Courtesy driver – transport customers to work/home and back while their vehicle is being repaired
- Trainer – instruct new employees on proper company procedures, practices and policies
- Supervise – oversee activities of other employees. Process time cards and review work activities
- Parts runner – drive company vehicle to pick up automotive parts and supplies
- Organize parts room
- Wash and clean vehicles

Continued on next page



- Tool maintenance – sharpen tools, clean tools, replace handles, replace cords, plugs, etc.
- Record inventory and source parts and materials
- Safety inspections

These are ideas to get you thinking – you know your workplace and workers best. Identify suitable work for each case.

For more information on developing a Return to Work

program, visit our website at wscn.nt.ca or wscn.nu.ca, or contact WSCC’s Return to Work Specialist at 1 (800) 661-0792 or ReturnToWork@wscn.nt.ca.