

BATTERY HANDLING

Safety Topic V6-0874

HazMat, Electrical

The main safety concerns with lead-acid vehicle batteries is the corrosive acid (electrolyte) and its ability to produce an electrical charge or cause burns on the skin.

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling batteries.
- Keep all forms of ignition far away from batteries including open flames, cigarettes, and any tools that could create sparks, like grinders.
- Ensure that tools used on or near batteries are insulated. Never place tools or metal objects on top of or near batteries. Remove all jewelry and watches before working on a battery.
- Keep batteries clean and free of excess dust to avoid conditions that may cause a fire or explosion.
- Avoid leaning over the battery when charging, testing, connecting, disconnecting, or jump-starting.
- Charge batteries in well-ventilated areas to prevent the accumulation of explosive gases. The battery recharging location should have necessary fire protection and emergency equipment.
- Always use proper lifting techniques or material handling equipment when moving batteries to avoid strains and injuries.
- Ensure batteries are securely placed to prevent them from tipping or dropping, which could cause acid spills or physical injuries.
- Store batteries upright. Keep battery vent caps tight.
- Ensure that charger cables and clamps are in good condition before use. Never jump-start a frozen battery.
- Dispose of batteries according to local environmental regulations, never in the regular trash.



Discussion

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What PPE is recommended when handling batteries?

What are the hazards associated with handling vehicle batteries?