## **YoungWorkers**



#### **Student Handout**

#### **Batteries**

Car and truck batteries are frequently worked on by auto mechanics, so it is easy to forget how dangerous they can be. Lead-acid batteries contain hydrogen-oxygen gases and sulphuric acid.

#### **Examples of hazards**

chemical burns from sulphuric acid explosion from hydrogen-oxygen gases electrical shocks and burns lifting injuries

#### **Safety tips**

Always shield your eyes and face from batteries.

Sulphuric acid is very corrosive. When working on a battery, wear CSA approved safety glasses or goggles and a face shield to protect your face and eyes, plastic gloves to protect your hands and a plastic apron to protect your body.

Remove rings and other metal jewelry such as a wristwatch or ID bracelet which can cause the battery to short-circuit.

Make sure the work area is well-ventilated.

Never lean over a battery while boosting, testing or charging it.

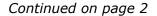
Flames or sparks could cause a battery to explode. Keep all ignition sources away from the battery.

Batteries are heavy—use good lifting technique when moving them.

Use insulated tools to avoid burns and shocks.

Keep vent caps tight and level.







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### 6-minute safety talk for auto mechanics

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Do not charge or use booster cables or adjust post connections without proper instructions and training.

Work on batteries only if there is an eyewash station readily accessible.

To start charging a battery, connect the leads first, and then turn the charger on.

To finish charging a battery, turn the charger off, and then disconnect the leads.

While charging a battery, monitor the temperature; stop charging if the battery gets really hot.

Always disconnect the ground cable first.

Never attempt to charge or jump start a frozen battery.

Never attempt to charge or jump start a maintenancefree battery if the charge indicator shows low electrolyte (clear or yellow).

If you come in contact with battery acid, flush the affected area with water and call a physician immediately.



