

## Stay shop safe

**Mechanics and technicians performing truck maintenance and repair face many types of safety hazards. Hazards that turn into accidents can mean lost profits to your business or serious, even fatal injuries to your employees.**

### SAFETY RULES

Consider these rules to help improve the safety of your fleet maintenance and repair operations:

- Prohibit horseplay in the workplace
- Wear seatbelts while operating any vehicle
- Maintain good housekeeping conditions
- Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position with caps in place
- Store and dispense flammables using approved safety containers
- Ensure that hoists are safe and secure before working under or around them
- Allow only trained and qualified employees to operate machinery and equipment
- Remove keys from the ignition and chock wheels until the work is completed and all personnel and tools are clear
- Observe all signs, warnings, and labels posted on containers and machinery
- Post signs and strictly enforce no smoking areas
- Show employees the location and proper use of fire extinguishers
- Follow Environmental Protection Agency guidelines for recycling or disposal of solvents, fluids, refrigerants, and waste
- Follow prescribed safety procedures for removing brake dust from brake drums, hardware, or calipers
- Correct safety hazards
- Report all injuries to management
- Take disciplinary action for shop safety rule violations

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while working in a maintenance shop is essential. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rules for the use of PPE cover protection necessary for the eyes and face, head, hands, and feet as well as requirements for hearing and respiratory protection.

### SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS

Slip, trip, and fall accidents can be serious and often force employees to miss work for long periods. Prevention is usually simple and inexpensive, involving little more than good housekeeping.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Mishandling electricity can kill or cause severe and permanent injury. Workers are exposed to hazards because many jobs involve electric power tools. Service areas cluttered with tools and materials also increase hazards.

### GUARDING

Fleet maintenance and repair shops contain a variety of machines and devices that require guarding to protect both employees and customers. Among them:

- Air compressors
- Bench grinders
- Hoist pits
- Stairs and stair wells
- Bending machines
- Strut compressors
- Lathes and saws
- Elevated openings



## CONTROLLING HAZARDOUS ENERGY

While performing maintenance or repair on machinery or equipment, an accidental release of energy can cause serious injury. OSHA rule 1910.147: The Control of Hazardous Energy, requires certain procedures be followed to prevent injury. These procedures are commonly called “lockout/tagout.” The idea is to locate the energy sources and remove or isolate them so the work can be done without exposing the worker to the hazardous energy or accidental start-up.

## WELDING AND CUTTING SAFETY

Welding and cutting activities can expose mechanics and technicians to many different hazards including fire, electrical, and exposure to welding fumes and gases. Workers should have special training and workplace controls for any welding and cutting.

## MANUAL MATERIALS HANDLING

Almost any type of activity in a fleet service shop involves the physical handling of parts, product, or equipment. Safeguards and safe work practices can help prevent material handling injuries.

## THE HAZARDS OF WORKING WITH SINGLE-PIECE AND MULTI-PIECE RIM WHEELS

Accidents involving single-piece rim wheels and those involving multi-piece rim wheels can be especially dangerous due to the sudden release of the pressurized air contained in the wheel. Employees who service rim wheels must be trained in the hazards involved and the proper safety procedures.

## OSHA STANDARD 29 CFR 1910.177

This standard is applied to the servicing of multi-piece and single piece rim wheels on large vehicles. It includes:

- Training for all employees who service tires
- The use of industry accepted procedures that minimize the potential for employee injury
- The use of proper equipment such as clip-on chucks, retraining devices, or barriers to retain the wheel components in the event of an incident during the inflation of tires
- The use of compatible components

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