

S34 – Toolbox Talk

Workshop Safety – Batteries

The major aspects to consider when charging and removing batteries are:

- Explosion of a battery, and
 - Burns to the skin and eyes.
-

General

- Never smoke near batteries
 - Always wear protective gloves and goggles when handling or cleaning batteries
 - Never tilt a battery more than is necessary in any direction as acid spillage may occur
 - Always switch off the ignition before attending to a battery.
-

Charging

- Always charge batteries in a well ventilated area. Raise the battery cover to aid ventilation. Make sure that there are no sources of ignition in the area
 - Make sure the battery is correctly topped up with distilled water only
 - Do not switch on the charger until it is correctly connected, ie positive to positive and negative to negative
 - Do not exceed the battery supplier's recommended charging rate
 - Switch off the charger before disconnecting leads
 - Do not use a quick charging unit when an alternator is connected to a battery as this will damage the alternator.
-

Auxiliary (Jump) Starting

- Never connect a fully charged battery to a completely discharged battery. This can cause one of them to burst
- Familiarise yourself with all the terminal markings and lead connections before attaching any jump leads
- Make sure that both batteries are the same voltage
- Check that the vehicles are not touching
- Turn off the ignition in both vehicles
- Check the polarity of both vehicles - is it negative or positive earth? If the polarity is different, do not proceed unless you remove the good battery completely from the vehicle



- Connect the non-earthed terminal of the flat battery to the non-earthed terminal of the good battery
- Connect the second lead to the earthed terminal of the good battery
- Connect the other end of the second lead to a suitable substantial unpainted point on the chassis of the other vehicle, well away from fuel lines
- Check that the leads are well clear of moving parts
- Start the engine of the good vehicle
- Start the engine of the dead vehicle, and allow to idle for some time before switching off and disconnecting the leads in the reverse order to above.

Training register

Date

Name of attendee

Signature

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

