

AUTO BODY SERVICES PORTFOLIO



DOES YOUR BROKER PROVIDE YOU WITH TIMELY UPDATES ON NEW AND REVISED OSHA REGULATIONS?

- We have all the resources necessary to keep your team informed and compliant with all new and existing OSHA regulations, including respiratory protection and spray painting safety.

ARE YOU PROTECTED IF A VEHICLE YOU ARE WORKING ON IS DAMAGED OR STOLEN?

- We've got you covered with information on Garage Keepers Liability coverage, designed to protect customer vehicles while they are kept for parking, storage or to perform maintenance or services in the event of fire, theft, vandalism, explosion or lightning.

DO YOUR EMPLOYEES HAVE THE KNOWHOW TO HANDLE CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES EFFECTIVELY?

- Our employee communications toolbox talks and workplace posters will give your employees the skills necessary to work with chemicals safely.

859-727-6675

www.gartmaninsurance.com

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Auto Body Shops – Customer Access

Location:

Effective Date:

Revision Number:1

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish how will protect its customers from the hazards present in the auto shop and establish when it is appropriate for customers to go outside the designated waiting area and into the shop to view their vehicles and discuss repairs. This policy is in place to reduce the exposure of customers to workplace risks, thus lessening the liability of the shop and protecting it against potential lawsuits.

This policy establishes employer and employee responsibilities for keeping customers safe and gives each a set of guidelines on how to achieve this goal.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Employee Responsibilities

Before allowing a customer to enter the shop, the employee must:

- Determine that the customer's presence outside the designated waiting room is absolutely essential to the proper repair of his or her vehicle.
- Be sure the shop is clean and tidy, especially along paths where the customer will be walking.
- Clean all oil, grease and water to prevent trips and slips.
- Make sure the areas of the shop where the customer visits are properly ventilated and free of any harmful fumes.
- Ask that the customer wear eye protection and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary while on the shop floor.
- Ask that the customer keep food and drinks in the designated waiting area so they do not become contaminated by potentially harmful dust.

During the customer's visit to the shop floor, the employee will:

- Stay with the customer the entire visit, escorting him or her out of and back into the designated waiting area.
- Keep the customer's time on the shop floor to an absolute minimum, conducting only the necessary business and then returning to the waiting area for further discussion.
- Take the customer by the safest route possible to view his or her vehicle. Do not lead the customer under or through dangerous or precarious areas of the shop.

Employer Responsibilities

To ensure the health and safety of all employees as well as customers who may enter the shop, the employer will:

- Check frame straightening machines and hydraulic pressure hoses regularly for signs of excessive wear
- Make sure the shop is properly ventilated, especially in areas where harsh, hazardous chemicals are being used and in areas where customers might stand.



Auto Body Shop Employee **SAFETY MANUAL**

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recognizes that our people drive the business. As the most critical resource, employees will be safeguarded through training, provision of appropriate work surroundings and procedures that foster protection of health and safety. All work conducted by 's employees will take into account the intent of this policy. No duty, no matter what its perceived result, will be deemed more important than employee health and safety.

is firmly committed to the safety of our employees. We will do everything possible to prevent workplace accidents and are committed to providing a safe working environment for all employees.

We value our employees, not only as employees, but also as human beings critical to the success of their families and the local community.

Employees are encouraged to report any unsafe work practices or safety hazards encountered on the job. All accidents/incidents (no matter how slight) are to be immediately reported to the supervisor on duty.

A key factor in implementing this policy will be the strict compliance to all applicable federal, state, local and policies and procedures. Failure to comply with these policies may result in disciplinary actions.

Respecting this, will make every reasonable effort to provide a safe and healthful workplace that is free from any recognized or known potential hazards. Additionally, subscribes to these principles:

1. All accidents are preventable through implementation of effective Safety and Health Control policies and programs.
2. Safety and Health controls are a major part of our work every day.
3. Accident prevention is good business. It minimizes human suffering, promotes better working conditions for everyone, holds in higher regard with patients and increases productivity. This is why will comply with all safety and health regulations which apply to the course and scope of operations.
4. Management is responsible for providing the safest possible workplace for employees. Consequently, management of is committed to allocating and providing all of the resources needed to promote and effectively implement this safety policy.
5. Employees are responsible for following safe work practices and company rules, and for preventing accidents and injuries. Management will establish lines of communication to solicit and receive comments, information, suggestions and assistance from employees where safety and health are concerned.
6. Management and supervisors of will set an exemplary example with good attitudes and strong commitment to safety and health in the workplace. Toward this end, management must monitor company safety and health performance, along with working environment and conditions to ensure that program objectives are achieved.
7. Our safety program applies to all employees and persons affected or associated in any way by the scope of this business. Everyone's goal must be to constantly improve safety awareness and to prevent accidents and injuries.

Everyone at must be involved and committed to safety. This must be a team effort. Together, we can prevent accidents and injuries. Together, we can keep each other safe and healthy in the workplace.

President

Risk Manager

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Return to Work

PURPOSE

This policy is in place to ensure provides meaningful work activity for employees who are temporarily unable to perform all, or portions, of their regular work assignments or duties. This policy applies to employees suffering from either work or non-work related injury or illness. The goal is to allow valued company employees to return to productive, regular work as quickly as possible. By providing temporary transitional or modified work activity, injured employees remain an active and vital part of the company. Studies show that a well-constructed Return to Work Policy reduces lost time days, allows workers to recover more quickly and makes for a more positive work environment.

SCOPE

All active employees who become temporarily unable to perform their regular job due to a compensable work related or non-work related injury or illness may be eligible for transitory work duties within the provisions of this program. Return to work tasks may be in the form of:

- Changed duties within the scope of the employee's current position
- Other available jobs for which the employee qualifies outside the scope of his or her current position
- An altered schedule of work hours

DEFINITIONS

- **Transitional duty** is a therapeutic tool used to accelerate injured employees' return to work by addressing the physical, emotional, attitudinal and environmental factors that otherwise inhibit a prompt return to work. These assignments are meant to be temporary and may not last longer than 90 days, though permits multiple 90-day assignments back-to-back if it is medically warranted.
- **Alternate duty** is a part of 's Return to Work Policy that is designed as a placement service for individuals who have reached maximum medical improvement and are still unable to perform the essential functions of their pre-injury job.

APPLICABILITY

Length of Duty

- If work is available that meets the limitations or restrictions set forth by the employee's attending practitioner, that employee may be assigned transitional or modified work for a period not to exceed 90 days. Transitional or light duty is a temporary program, and an employee's eligibility in these reduced assignments will be based strictly on medical documentation and recovery progress.

Daily Application

- An employee's limitations and restrictions are effective 24 hours a day. Any employee who fails to follow his or her restrictions may cause a delay in healing or may further aggravate the condition. Employees who disregard their established restrictions, whether they are at work or not, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Qualification

- Transitional or modified duty will be available to all employees on a fair and equitable basis with temporary assignments based on skill and abilities. Eligibility will be based upon completion of the Return to Work Evaluation Form by the

Drug-free Workplace

Purpose

recognizes that employees are our most valuable asset, and the most important contributors to our continued growth and success. We are firmly committed to the safety of our employees. will do everything possible to prevent workplace accidents and is committed to providing a safe working environment for all employees.

To further this goal, has developed a Drug-free Workplace Policy effective . The program will consist of three components: Post-Offer Drug/Alcohol Screen, Reasonable Cause Drug/Alcohol Screen and Post-Incident Drug/Alcohol Screen. This policy applies to all candidates for employment as well as all current employees. This policy also serves to reinforce the 's intolerance for illegal drug use and working under the influence of alcohol.

Post-Offer Testing

believes accident prevention and a safe work environment begin with hiring. As such, all applicants offered employment will be required to undergo a Drug/Alcohol Screening. Employment is conditional on the results of the Drug/Alcohol Screen.

Procedure

Any applicant the Company hires will be directed to the proper clinic, at Company expense, to undergo a Post-Offer Drug/Alcohol Screen. The clinic will release the results to the Human Resources Manager, who in turn will notify the candidate of the results.

The test will consist of a breath alcohol test along with a urine analysis test for any non-prescribed illegal substances listed in Exhibit 'A' below.

Consequence

In the event the drug test comes back positive, the Medical Review Officer (MRO) will review the report and contact the applicant to determine if any extenuating circumstances, relevant at the time of the test, could have resulted in a false positive. The MRO will determine if the applicant will be re-tested. If any applicant tests positive with a blood alcohol level exceeding .02 or any non-prescribed illegal substance listed in Exhibit 'A', will withdraw their offer of employment. If any applicant refuses to submit to the tests, the offer will be withdrawn.

Reasonable Cause

reserves the right under all applicable laws to test any employee for alcohol and illegal drugs if the employee shows cause. Management, supervisors and lead personnel have been trained to identify symptoms of being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.

Procedure

If a supervisor, manager or lead person identifies a problem, they will ask another supervisor/manager/lead person to confirm the reasonable cause. Both persons will then individually fill out a Reasonable Suspicion Report. After filling out the report and it is decided jointly that reasonable suspicion still exists, the employee will be escorted to a private area where the supervisor/manager/lead person will speak to the person confidentially. The employee will be given a chance to explain. If, after the explanation the supervisor/manager/lead person believes the employee is unfit to perform his or her duties and reasonable suspicion for use of illegal drugs or alcohol still exists, the employee will be asked to go for a test. They will then be transported by to our designated testing facility.

Garage Keepers Liability Coverage

Companies in the business of storing customer vehicles need to be protected. Picture this scenario: you are a tow truck driver who is called to tow a car in the middle of the night. Since the mechanic's garage is closed at this time, you must store the car in your shop for the night. A few hours later, someone breaks into your shop and vandalizes the customer's vehicle.

Garage Keepers Liability coverage is designed to offer protection for business owners who offer towing services or operate service stations, similar to the scenario described above. This coverage protects customer vehicles while they are kept at the business location for parking, storage or to perform maintenance or services in the event of fire, theft, vandalism, explosion or lightning. There are two types of Garage Keepers Liability coverage that are available:

1. *Direct Primary Coverage* – Coverage for a business, even if the loss is not the business's fault nor are they legally liable.
2. *Excess Coverage* – Additional coverage over the limit of coverage that the vehicle owner/customer has from his/her own insurance company. This will automatically pay if the customer does not have Automobile Insurance.

Garage Keepers Liability Coverage is Designed for:

- Automotive and motorcycle dealers
- Service stations
- Restaurants, hotels and special event operations with valet parking

- Private parking lots and structures and airport parking lots
- Car washes
- Other businesses that accept custody or control of vehicles belonging to others for a fee

Limits and Deductibles

- Determine coverage limits by considering the average value of vehicles in your care multiplied by the average number of vehicles in your care at any given time. For instance, if the average value of your customers' vehicles is \$30,000 and you tend to have 10 vehicles on hand, then you should select a limit of \$300,000.
- You must select a per-vehicle deductible (generally \$500) that is to be paid by you in case of a damaging incident. Then, the insurer covers the remaining amount, up to your limits.

Exclusions

- Contractual obligations
- Theft by the insured
- Defective parts or faulty work
- Loss of sound reproducing equipment, unless it is permanently installed
- Loss of CDs and tapes
- Loss of sound receiving equipment (CBs, mobile radios and telephones), unless it is installed in the dash or console
- Radar detection equipment

We understand that unfavorable incidents can occur. Garage Keepers Insurance ensures that you are adequately protected. Contact us today for more details.

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Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers (NAICS 441)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) keeps records not only of the most frequently cited standards overall, but also within particular industries. The most recent statistics from OSHA reveal the top standards cited in the fiscal year 2014 for the motor vehicle and parts dealers industry. This top 10 list comprises establishments that retail motor vehicles and parts from fixed point-of-sale locations. Establishments in this subsector typically operate from a showroom and/or an open lot where the vehicles are on display.

DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATION	CITED STANDARD NUMBER	ACV*
1. Hazard Communication - Properly transmitting information on chemical hazards through a comprehensive program, container labeling, SDS and training.	29 CFR 1910.1200	\$377
2. Respiratory Protection - Properly administering a respiratory protection program, selecting correct respirators, completing medical evaluations to determine which employees are required to use respirators and providing tight-fitting equipment.	29 CFR 1910.134	\$315
3. Powered Industrial Trucks - Ensuring safety of employees on powered industrial trucks through fire protection, design, maintenance and proper use.	29 CFR 1910.178	\$1,128
4. Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment for General Use - Using proper wiring techniques and equipment to ensure safe electrical continuity.	29 CFR 1910.305	\$729
5. Portable Fire Extinguishers - Placement, use, maintenance and testing of portable fire extinguishers provided for the use of employees.	29 CFR 1910.157	\$591
6. General Duty Clause - Ensuring that place of employment is free of recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.	5A0001	\$2,346
7. General Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements - Selecting the correct PPE, providing instruction, monitoring its use and maintaining the PPE to standards.	29 CFR 1910.132	\$816
8. General Electrical Requirements - Ensuring electric equipment is free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.	29 CFR 1910.303	\$1,308
9. Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes - Ensuring every stairway floor opening has proper railings and other protection.	29 CFR 1910.23	\$1,474
10. Servicing Multi-piece and Single-piece Rim Wheels - Safety when servicing multi- and single-piece rim wheels used on large vehicles such as trucks, tractors, trailers, busses and off-road machines.	29 CFR 1910.177	\$2,533

*ACV (Average Cost per Violation) - The dollar amount represents the **average cost per violation** that employers in this industry paid in 2012. To understand the full capacity and scope of each standard, click on the standard number to visit www.osha.gov and view the language in its entirety. Source: OSHA.gov

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BODY SHOP HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Recommendations for Employers

For:

Date:

Conducted by:

Best Practices for a Respiratory Protection Program	YES	NO	NA
Create and implement a respiratory protection program. ¹ This will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that respirators are protecting workers from inhalation hazards. Ensure that workers are physically capable of wearing a respirator. Comply with the OSHA standard. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use NIOSH-certified respirators that provide the appropriate level of protection for each task.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide medical surveillance to workers using respirators.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide respirator training to employees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perform annual fit-testing for employees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure that workers do not have facial hair that interferes with the respirator seal when wearing tight-fitting face-piece respirators.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implement the appropriate filter change-out schedule for all respirators worn at the shop.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Best Practices for a Hazard Communication Program	YES	NO	NA
Implement a hazard control program. ² This will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that health and safety considerations do not slip through the cracks. Help identify hazards before employees get hurt or become ill. Help ensure that employees protect themselves from identified hazards. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management should have the time, resources and the authority to implement the program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management should frequently walk through the shop to ensure that controls are in place and are being used.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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¹ Required element of OSHA's Respirator Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134).

² Required element of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).



Supplied Air Respirators:

Useful Options for Auto Refinishers

To stay healthy on the job, painters should wear a supplied-air respirator when spraying paints containing highly toxic chemicals. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that painters should wear supplied-air respirators when spraying isocyanate-containing paints to ensure their health and safety. Although some painters complain that conventional supplied-air respirators lack comfort, visibility or convenience, newer models succeed in protecting workers and are also user-friendly.

TYPES OF RESPIRATORS

Loose-Fitting Hood Supplied-Air Respirators

- Respirators are lightweight, low maintenance (most are equipped with disposable visor covers) and offer a wide field of vision.
- Painters do not need a fit test to use the hood model and can have a beard and wear glasses.
- This type provides the greatest cooling effect for workers.



Tight-Fitting Full Face-Piece Respirators

- Typically provide the highest level of protection of all supplied-air respirators.
- Many designs have the breathing tube and air line attach in back, away from the work zone. This helps prevent the air line from accidentally ruining the paint job.
- Painters need a fit test for this unit and cannot have a beard or other facial hair to ensure a tight seal. Eyeglass mounts are available on most models.

Loose-Fitting Face-Piece Respirators

- Respirator has a flip-up visor, which allows the painter to get a better view of the finish without removing the unit.
- Models do not require fit testing and can accommodate eyeglasses and moderate facial hair.
- Painters must remember to lift the visor only after the ventilation system has exhausted all of the paint overspray from the spray booth.

Considerations for Supplied-Air Respirators

Shop owners must decide what type of breathing air system will work best for their facility and their supplied-air respirators. There are two common options:

In-Line Air Filtration Units

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Potential Environmental and Regulatory Liabilities at Car Dealerships, Gasoline/Service Stations and Garages

The most common environmental and regulatory exposures encountered at car dealerships, gasoline/service stations and garages include:

- Leaking underground fuel and waste oil from storage tanks.
- Untested underground fuel and waste oil/solvent tanks and pipes.
- Underground tanks which were removed or abandoned for unknown reasons.
- Lack of information on existing and former underground tanks, such as age, contents, size, construction, cathodic protection, etc.
- Poor housekeeping resulting in oil, fuel and cleaning solvents being spilled on unpaved areas.
- Leaking grease traps or oil/water separators that pollute soil and/or groundwater.
- Accumulated old batteries which contain leached acidic liquids.
- Wastewaters flowing from service bays into the sanitary sewers. Discharge of oily waste to the storm sewer without a NODES permit. Electrical equipment containing PCBs.
- Paint residues from the body shop washed into storm drains.
- Paints and solvents spilled outdoors in unpaved areas.
- Wash waters from a car wash discharged into a storm sewer.
- Paints discharged to the sanitary sewer that restrict the wastewater flow through the sewer pipe or which clog downstream pipes.

This is not an exhaustive list of environmental exposures. It represents the most common environmental exposures for this industry. Klaire Chitwood will work with you to identify environmental exposures that are unique to your business to help you reduce risk.

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Protect Employee Health and Prevent Pollution: A Guide for Auto Repair Shops

Many auto repair shops use aerosol cleaning agents that contain toxic solvents. These products can pollute the environment and can cause harm to employees' health – for example, auto mechanics may develop nerve damage from using aerosol brake cleaners containing hexane. There are many other health hazards in the auto repair shop that workers may not realize, including asbestos exposure. Frequent changes in product ingredients, misinterpretation of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and limited health and safety knowledge can make it difficult for a typical auto repair shop to decipher which products pose harm.

Toxic Solvents – FAQs

- How can working with toxic solvents affect my workers' health?

If workers breathe in too many toxic fumes, they may experience damage to their nervous systems. Symptoms include nausea, dizziness, clumsiness, drowsiness and other body responses that resemble signs of being intoxicated. If workers are overexposed in a short period of time, the effects of exposure should disappear when the exposure ends. However, if exposure is ongoing over months or years, the physical damage can take longer to go away or may become permanent.

Exposure to solvents may also irritate the eyes, nose, throat or skin and may cause a rash. In addition, prolonged exposure may cause long-term health effects, such as damage to the nerves in the feet, legs, hands and arms, damage to reproductive organs and cancer.

- How can I determine if my workers are using toxic solvents?

Employers should encourage employees to check SDS for the products they are using. This should identify any toxic solvents and any other hazardous materials, listed by their Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers. SDS also contain information on the health hazards of chemicals and exposure control methods for reducing the risk of injury and illness.

Train your employees on working with hazardous materials safely, and have precautions in place to prevent injury or illness.

- Many product ingredients have changed over the years to make them more eco-friendly. Does this protect workers as well?

As many ingredients change to reduce pollution, they may also become non-toxic and less dangerous for workers to use. For instance, water-based cleaners are now available in place of cleaners containing toxic solvents. Though the main reason for creating these so-called "greener" chemicals was to reduce damage to the environment, workers are at less risk of developing nerve damage and other serious health conditions as well.

Be aware that not all green products are necessarily safer

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PLAYING IT SAFE



Auto Body Shop Customer Safety

Take proper measures to keep customers safe

Auto body shops present a variety of hazards, including the use of dangerous chemicals, exposure to paint fumes, exposure to sanding dust, metal fumes from welding and cutting, hearing damage from excessive noise, the potential for oil or grease spills leading to slips and falls, flying debris, electrical exposures and the general peril of working with large, heavy machinery.

Though you are well aware of these dangers, customers visiting your garage or shop probably do not fully understand the potential risks. Because customers are not equipped with training or proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and you may be liable for any injuries incurred in the shop, it is important to take proper measures to keep them safe.

Take the Safe Route

Your best bet for keeping customers free from injury is to keep them in the designated waiting areas and away from the garage altogether. It is recommended that you make sure signs indicate employee-only zones to warn customers of potential hazards in entering the shop floor.

A good rule of thumb is to take customers into the garage only when it is absolutely vital to completing the job.

Remember that if your company is indeed liable for customers' injuries while inside the garage, you might be better off discussing repairs away from potential auto shop hazards in the long run.

Factors to Consider

If you decide that taking a customer back into the shop and away from the designated waiting areas is the only feasible option, here are some things to consider to protect him or her from harm:

- Be sure the shop is clean and orderly. Clean up all oil, grease and water spills promptly, and remove all tools or other objects left in walking paths. Make sure there are no exposed sharp edges around the shop where visiting customers could cut themselves.
- Check frame straightening machines and hydraulic pressure hoses regularly for signs of excessive wear to prevent the possibility of chain snapping.
- Make sure the areas of the shop where the customer visits are properly ventilated and free of any harmful fumes.

Be safe and healthy on the job at with these helpful tips provided by **Gartman Insurance Agency Inc. .**

Request that your customers wear personal protective equipment while on the shop floor, emphasizing that it is for their own safety.

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safety matters

Toolbox Talks for

From your safety partners at Gartman Insurance Agency Inc.

Auto Lift Safety

No matter how many years of experience you have working in the shop, auto lifts always present a chance for injury. Given the size and weight of the average vehicle, improper lift usage can have disastrous consequences. Using lifts safely not only reduces your chance for injury but also helps protect those working around you.

Before Using

Responsible lift operation begins before a vehicle ever leaves the garage floor. Each day before use:

- Inspect the lift for any problems. Watch for any worn out pieces that may need to be replaced or other damage that may compromise the lift's integrity.
- Check any cables or chains that bear weight for damage or corrosion.
- Check oil and pressure levels if the lift is hydraulic.
- If the lift fails any part of your pre-use test, notify your supervisor and remove the lift from service by marking it with the proper signage.
- Never try to fix or alter a lift yourself. Proper lift maintenance requires a trained and authorized professional.

Trial and error can be fatal. Never use a lift if you have not been trained on how to do so.

Operating Precautions

From the time the tires leave the ground until the time they return, there is always a certain

amount of risk present. While the vehicle is on the lift remember to:

- Make sure the vehicle is properly balanced on the lift. Raise the vehicle just off the ground and gently rock it to ensure stability.
- Make sure that tires are properly chocked to prevent movement when using a drive-on lift. Always use the chocks supplied or recommended by the manufacture. Makeshift devices are not reliable substitutes.
- Never attempt to raise a vehicle that is over the weight capacity of a lift.
- Never raise a vehicle with a person in it.
- Engage the lift's load locking devices before starting work. Do not use lifts that have no way of securing the load while raised.
- Never override the safety features of the lift.
- Use additional supports on the front and back of the vehicle when removing or installing heavy components such as transmissions.
- Wear appropriate protective equipment such as a cap or hard hat, steel-toed boots, safety glasses and ear protection while working under a vehicle.
- Never try to stabilize a falling vehicle. Clear the area immediately.

Even if you have years of experience under your belt, auto lifts always present a certain element of risk that you need to prepare for.

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safety matters

Toolbox Talks for

From your safety partners at Gartman Insurance Agency Inc.

Spray Painting Safety in the Body Shop

Spray painting is an efficient and effective way to cover large areas with even coats of primer, paint, sealers and other coatings. When you are using spray paint, it is important to recognize and guard against potential hazards.

Why is it Dangerous?

Many paints, coatings, catalysts, sealers, hardeners and solvents contain hazardous chemicals to which you could be exposed during mixing, spraying, grinding and sanding tasks. Overexposure can cause nausea, rash, asthma, dermatitis or even lung cancer. In addition, some coatings contain flammable substances, which are released into the air when you use high-pressure equipment. As they build up, these vapors can create an explosion hazard. To protect yourself from these and other health hazards, study the following guidelines to safe spray painting practices.

How Can I Protect Myself?

Before beginning a new task, consult the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for each product you will use. You will find information specific to that chemical, including its hazards, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), proper handling, transport, storage and disposal.

General Recommendations

- Use a spray booth to avoid breathing in spray paint vapors and debris. Regularly maintained and cleaned spray booths also provide maximum protection against explosion hazards.

- Wear hearing protection when working with air powered tools. Extended exposure to loud noises can result in irreversible damage to your hearing.
- To protect your eyes, wear safety glasses and a dust mask or respirator to protect against dust particles that form when using grinding and sanding equipment.
- Wear a combination type HEPA air filter and organic vapor respirator with breathing air lines to protect yourself from hazardous fumes.
- Wear lightweight, disposable coveralls, or launder reusable coveralls separately from street clothes.
- Never eat, drink, smoke or apply cosmetics while working with spray paint. Store food and other belongings in a separate area.
- Store paints and their solvents carefully in ventilated, nonsmoking areas to prevent the possibility of ignition and explosion.
- Since you may have to hold full paint pots while spraying, you must keep ergonomics in mind while on the job. Use balanced spray guns that fit in your hand or use a hoist and dolly to move materials instead of holding them. Take frequent, short breaks throughout the workday to stretch to avoid unnecessary strains and sprains.

To protect yourself from health hazards, study the following guidelines to safe spray painting practices.

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