

TOOL BOX TALK SERIES



TOPIC: Garage Safety

INTRODUCTION

Garages and workshops have many different hazards present due to the broad range of activities that take place. All personnel should be trained appropriately, take the necessary precautions, comply with all safety procedures and be fully familiar with the Risk Assessment control measures for the task they are carrying out or the equipment they are using.

THE HAZARDS

- Vehicle movements / reversing
- Open pits / work at height / falling objects
- Lifting equipment
- Inadequate lighting
- Static workshop equipment
- Inflating tyres
- Hot works
- Abrasive wheels

- Compressed air
- Shelving and storage
- Power tools
- Hand tools
- Electricity
- Poor housekeeping
- Manual Handling
- Chemicals / oils / greases



SAFE OPERATING PRACTICES

 Always ensure that there is a safe system of work in place and that you make yourself familiar with the Risk Assessment control measures for the task being carried out or the equipment you are using.

- Install designated pedestrian routes wherever possible to segregate pedestrians from mobile plant and vehicles. Cordon off work zones to prevent vehicles driving inadvertently into the area.
- Ensure, as far as possible that all safety features on mobile plant are in good working order.
- Use a spotter to guide vehicles into position in the workshop.
- Never walk or work underneath an attachment or equipment that is not securely and correctly propped.
- Pits should be covered, edges protected, or a vehicle parked over them at all times to prevent falls from height.
- The Safe Working Load of lifting equipment should never be exceeded.
- All lifting equipment must have a valid certificate of thorough examination (GA1) and should be inspected regularly before use. Ensure lifting equipment is stored correctly to prevent damage.
- Garages and workshops should be adequately lit to prevent collisions and slips/trips/falls.
- Ensure all static workshop equipment, power tools and hand tools are appropriate for use and in good condition before use, including power cables, plugs and sockets. All guards must be in place and secured correctly.
- Portable Appliance Testing should be carried out on all power tools.
- Store tools and equipment so that they cannot fall from shelves, etc.
- Operatives should be trained and have access to the correct inflation values for tyres. **Always**

inflate tyres from a safe location. Never stand in front of a tyre being inflated.

- Personnel must be trained and competent to carry out hot works such as welding / gas cutting. Appropriate fire prevention measures must be taken, and all personnel should make themselves familiar with emergency evacuation procedures.
- Always store cylinders upright and secure the cylinders from falling.
- Operators of abrasive wheels should be trained in their safe use.
- Ensure compressors are regularly serviced and certified for use by a competent person





- Implement a clean as you go policy and keep all access and egress routes clear of rubbish and parts, especially close to garage pits.
- All personnel should be trained in correct manual handling techniques.
- Always ensure the Safety Data Sheet is available for any chemicals that are being used and adhere to all control measures stated.
- Chemicals and oils should be stored correctly on retention bunds in case of leakage.
- Always park a vehicle over an open pit or install safety rails around the pit or cover the pit with suitable timbers to prevent falls
- Always prop a rasied body prior to working under it





REMEMBER: ALWAYS Ensure You Are Trained to Carry Out the Work or Use the Equipment

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