

Workplace Hazards in Automotive Repair and Service

This fact sheet is for students undertaking work experience programs, and for their host employers. It can be used as a tool to assist with task planning, and to develop appropriate induction, training and supervision to minimise any risk to students while they are 'at work'.

Students must be given instruction, and must be supervised at all times. Consideration must always be given to hazards when allocating tasks. If any risk exists, students must NOT undertake the activity.

Hazard	Possible Harmful Effects	Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness	Preventative Action Students Can Take
Fixed plant including automotive hoist	Laceration Operator being pinned down/crushed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Undertake risk assessment of all plant, equipment and tools ◆ Put in place appropriate controls, e.g. machine guarding ◆ Provide training on safe use ◆ Develop and implement maintenance regime. ◆ Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) <p>NOTE: Students must NOT operate automotive hoists</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Observe risk controls, e.g. machine guarding ◆ Use plant strictly according to your training ◆ Use PPE provided <p>NOTE: Students must NOT operate automotive hoists</p>
Powered mobile plant including cars	Operator being rolled on or pinned underneath Other workers being struck, crushed or pinned underneath	Students must NOT operate or ride on mobile plant	Students must NOT operate or ride on mobile plant
Powered and other hand-tools	Laceration and amputation Manual handling injuries	Students must NOT operate powered tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide instruction in the safe use of hand tools 	Students must NOT operate powered tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use hand tools carefully, according to instructions
Noise and vibration	Hearing loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Maintain plant and equipment to reduce noise and to limit vibration ◆ Provide hearing protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Follow safe work procedures ◆ Wear PPE (hearing protection) provided
Petrol, solvents, degreasers, paints Cleaning products	Skin contact may cause irritation or dermatitis Vapours may cause headaches or other respiratory problems. Long-term exposure may cause chronic effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use least hazardous product for the task ◆ Provide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ◆ Observe safe storage and handling practices Provide adequate ventilation ◆ Provide training in use of fire protection equipment ◆ Document and practise emergency procedures ◆ Provide appropriate PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Read MSDS and follow safe working instructions ◆ Use PPE provided to protect you against hazardous substances
Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward working posture)	Musculoskeletal injuries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use mechanical aids where practicable ◆ Adopt safe system of work ◆ Use team lifting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Use mechanical aids provided ◆ Seek help when you think a team lift is required ◆ Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day
Hot working conditions	Heat stress, dehydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Provide regular rest breaks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dress appropriately for your working conditions ◆ Take scheduled breaks
Working at heights	Falls from heights – potential for fatality or serious injury Musculoskeletal injuries, including sprains and strains	Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall	Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Establish work place policy ◆ Provide staff briefings or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Report any concerns immediately