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[www.MySafetyPoint.com](http://www.MySafetyPoint.com)

## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

### Automotive Lifts “Safety Tips”

The safe use of automotive lifts is extremely important in order to prevent employee injuries and damage to customers’ vehicles.

According to the records compiled by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), operator error, lack of training, and lack of maintenance are the primary causes of accidents involving automotive lifts.

The safety tips listed to the right can help protect against protect against employee injuries and damage to customers’ vehicles.

### Automotive Service Pits

- Fall due to lack of safety cover over [service] pit-Recovery \$180,000.
- SUV Partially Falls Into Oil Pit.
- Division of Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) issues a citation for a serious violation for [service pit] unguarded floor openings with a proposed civil penalty of \$935.

These are just several examples of potential consequences when appropriate safeguards are not implemented in and around automotive service pits. **See page 2 for full article.**

## “Safety Tips”

- Inspect your lift(s) daily. Never operate a lift if it malfunctions or if it has broken or damaged parts. Repairs should be made with original equipment parts.
- Operating controls are designed to close when released. Do not block open or override them.
- Understand the lift capacity. Never overload your lift. Manufacturer’s rated capacity is shown on the name-plate affixed to the lift.
- Only trained personnel should be allowed to use the lift.
- Never raise the lift with someone inside the vehicle or on the lift. Customers or by-standers should not be in the lift area during operation.
- Always keep lift area free of obstructions, grease, oil, trash and other debris.
- Before driving vehicle over lift, position arms and support to provide unobstructed clearance. Do not hit or run over lift arms, adapters, or axle supports. This could damage the lift or vehicle.
- Load vehicle on lift carefully. Position lift supports to contact at the vehicle manufacturer’s recommended lifting points. Raise lift until supports contact vehicle. Check supports for secure contact with vehicle. Raise lift to desired working height. CAUTION: If you are working under vehicle, lift should be raised high enough for locking device to be engaged.
- Note that with some vehicles, the removal (or installation) of components may cause a critical shift in the vehicle’s center of gravity, and result in raised vehicle stability. Follow the manufacturer’s service manual for recommended procedures when performing these operations.
- Before lowering a vehicle from the lift, check to make sure that the lift area is free of tools, stands, bystanders, etc. Release locking devices before attempting to lower lift.
- Before removing the vehicle from lift, reposition the lift arms and supports to provide an unobstructed exit. Please refer to bullet point # 7).

Information attained from [MySafetyPoint.com](http://MySafetyPoint.com) technical Bulletin

Reference: Automotive Lift Institute. Alliance- An OSHA



## AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY ASSOCIATION (ASA)

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## Service Pit Best Practices

- Conspicuously post signs stating that customers are not allowed in the work area.
- Only allow a trained, designated service tech to position vehicle over the service pit.
- Check pit for presence of flammable or other hazardous vapors.
- Remove all flammable/combustible materials from pit.
- Ensure that the ventilation system is working efficiently.
- Place vehicle so there is room to get out of pit in an emergency.
- Set chocks to keep vehicle from moving.
- Use only explosion-proof lights. Ensure that light globes are not broken or missing.
- Use pneumatic (air-powered) or explosion-protected tools as a safety precaution even though the pit has been checked for flammable vapors.
- Do not drain a fuel tank over or near a pit. Vapors from gasoline and paint solvents are heavier than air.
- Do not jump across pits.

Service pit covers are available in a variety of systems and designs – from rigid steel or high strength plastic to high tensile strength nylon or metal netting.

In addition, this arrangement helps put a business in compliance by meeting OSHA floor protection requirements.

The sliding design allows smooth movement of the cover for vehicle access above and it will not restrict light penetration to the tech work area below.

**OSHA regulations clearly indicate that certain precautions must be in place to prevent these types of incidents.**

### 1910.23(a)(8)

Every floor hole into which persons can accidentally walk shall be guarded by either:

### 1910.23(a)(8)(i)

A standard railing with standard toeboard on all exposed sides, or

### 1910.23(a)(8)(ii)

A floor hole cover of standard strength and construction. While the cover is not in place, the floor hole shall be constantly attended by someone or shall be protected by a removable standard railing.

Since it's usually impracticable to have someone constantly attend an open service pit, the alternatives of using a standard railing or a cover should be assessed. While both are dependent on an employee's action, the railing would take "extra effort" to remove and replace with each vehicle and exposes the worker to an open pit. The cover would be more practicable as it can be installed to slide open and closed. Little effort is required to utilize this option as the service technician enters and exits the service pit.

Information for this article was attained from  
[MySafetyPoint.com](http://MySafetyPoint.com)

### **Additional Information**

- For more information on this, and other health related issues affecting workers, visit OSHA's Web site at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

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