



Helping to make your workplace a safe place  
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## ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

### Health & Safety In Your Shop

Hazards exist in every workplace in many different forms: sharp edges, falling objects, flying sparks, chemicals, noise and a myriad of other potentially dangerous situations. As an employer, you should periodically reassess the workplace for changes in conditions, equipment or operating procedures so you remain one step ahead of a potential hazardous situation.

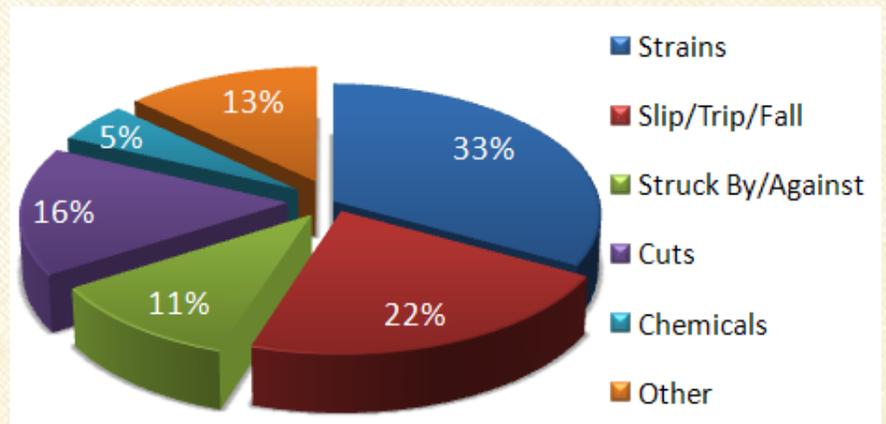
### Cause of Workplace Injuries

This is what we find when we look at workers' compensation claims:

- **Back and other musculoskeletal injuries** result from lifting heavy objects and working in awkward postures when disassembling and prepping vehicles.
- **Slip and fall injuries** are frequently caused by poor housekeeping or unclear pathways
- **Eye injuries** are frequently caused by particles that impact unprotected eyes
- **Respiratory (lung) diseases** like work-related asthma result from exposure to the isocyanates present in polyurethane-based coatings, linings, and paints.

### Loss Statistics:

The display below shows the most common employee injuries for the Automotive Trades industry. These types of losses are typical for your class of business. It's important to closely evaluate hazards related to each type of accident to gain a clear understanding of the 'root causes'. Then, you'll be well equipped to engage your employees and implement safety measures which reduce the risk and likelihood of these accidents.



### How can you prevent these injuries in your shop?

Talk to your employees about the most frequent and costly injuries experienced in your shop. Get their input on what they think might hurt them on the job, and then ask them what could be changed to prevent those injuries. When employees participate in ways to prevent injuries, they are much more likely to comply with changes you might make.

### Prevent back and other musculoskeletal injuries:

- Use jacks and lifting aids for lifting heavy parts for installation.
- Store heavy parts above the floor - between knee and shoulder level.

(Continued on page 2)



## AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY ASSOCIATION (ASA)

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## Prevent back and other musculoskeletal injuries cont.

- Use rolling work stands so workers avoid having to bend over to pick up tools.
- Use pads on fenders or body so workers can lean on the car when working towards the middle of the vehicle.
- Avoid placing heavy parts on the ground if they're going to be re-installed. Hang them up around or on the lift, using a device like a Tire Hanger.
- Ask for help with big, heavy or awkward parts.

## Prevent slip & fall injuries:

- Clean floors and work surfaces as soon as they become wet.
- Place warning signs in wet floor areas and remove them promptly when the floor is clean and dry.
- During wet or oily processes, maintain drainage and provide false floors, platforms, or nonslip mats. (False floors are elevated floors usually 2 to 4 inches above the structural floor designed to provide a surface for safe transit).
- Keep passageways clear at all times, and mark permanent aisles and passageway.

## Prevent eye injuries:

- Develop an eye protection use policy.
- Work with your employees to find eye protection that works for them and offers adequate protection, including top and side protection.
- Enforce the use of eye protection by your employees whenever they are on the shop floor.

## Prevent work-related asthma:

- Provide extended cuff nitrile gloves, chemical resistant shoot suits, headsocks, and other coverings. No exposed skin should come into contact with catalysts, hardeners, or mixed coating and paint products.
- Catalyst and hardener spills should be cleaned up promptly and any exposed skin should be washed thoroughly. The hardener does not evaporate and can move to other shop areas from contaminated hands and footwear.
- Replace all your latex gloves with extended-cuff nitrile gloves. You can use nitrile gloves for practically every task performed in your shop – from surface preparation to application of paints and coatings.
- A supplied air respirator is the best choice for protecting workers. However, the compressor and other associated equipment must be properly maintained and must deliver sufficient uncontaminated air.
- Read the MSDSs for your products to find out whether they contain isocyanates and other hazardous chemicals. The most common isocyanate hardener used in automotive paints is hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI). In spray-on truck bed linings, the hardener is mostly MDI (methyl diphenyl diisocyanate).
- Encourage any worker with symptoms such as wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, or coughing to see their doctor immediately.

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