

Tailgate talk

Today's Subject:

Battery safety

Date: _____

Most of us would probably agree that when chemicals such as sulfuric acid and lead are combined with an electrical current, you have a significant risk of injuries.

That's one of the key reasons you should exercise caution when working with batteries.

What to focus on

Here are four things to keep in mind in order to stay safe when handling batteries.

1. Don't lean over a battery. Because the chemicals in batteries are highly corrosive, don't lean over them when you're working with them. That way, you reduce the risks of chemical exposure.

2. Wear safety gear. You lower the chances that a chemical splash will be harmful when you wear safety gear such as chemical splash goggles and a face shield. Also consider acid-resistant equipment such as gauntlet-style gloves, an apron and boots.

3. Disconnect the cables in sequence. To avoid sparking, disconnect the negative cable first and reconnect it last.

4. Pay attention to storage. Overcharged batteries can cause a dangerous chemical reaction, so you should only handle and store batteries in well-ventilated areas away from ignition sources.