

## AUTO MECHANICS TOOLBOX TALK

## LOCKOUT



Lockout means to physically neutralize all energy in a piece of equipment to ensure that machinery or equipment won't start while a worker is doing maintenance or repair. This can be done by turning off a master switch or by unplugging powered tools or equipment, physically placing a personal lock on an energy-isolating device and placing your tag there to notify other workers of the work being performed. Working on powered equipment that is not properly locked out can result in severe injuries and death. The most common injuries are severed fingers and crushed limbs, but injuries are sometimes fatal.



## SAFETY TIPS

For any equipment that requires lockout, do not operate the equipment until you have been trained in how to lock it out.

Lockout involves the following steps:

- 1. Identify the vehicle or equipment that needs to be locked out.
- 2. Shut off the machinery or equipment. Make sure that all moving parts have come to a complete stop. Also ensure that the act of shutting off equipment does not cause a hazard to other workers.
- 3. Identify and de-activate the main energy-isolating device (such as a vehicle's ignition
- switch or a power tool's on/ off switch) for each energy source. There may be more than one source of power for some pieces of equipment, for example, both electric and pneumatic power for tools.
- 4. Apply a personal lock to the energy-isolating device for each energy source, and ensure that all parts and attachments are secured against inadvertent movement

## **EXAMPLES OF HAZARDS**

- · Engine belts
- Engine fans
- · Drive shaft
- Hoists
- Power and hydraulic equipment



Adapted with permission from WorkSafeBC.





(each worker must apply a personal lock unless group lockout procedures are followed). Place tag notifying other workers of the work being performed. For a vehicle, this means removing the key from the ignition and placing it in your pocket or other location where no other worker can access it while you are working on the vehicle (if you do not need the vehicle engine turned on to perform your work).

- 5. Test the lockout to make sure it's effective and to verify that all live components have been de-energized. First ensure that all workers are in the clear and that no hazard will be created if the lockout is not effective. Lockout can be tested after each energy-isolating device is locked out or after a group of nearby devices is locked out.
- **6.** Make sure that no one else can start an engine that you're working on without you knowing about it.
- 7. When you shut off a piece of equipment, make sure that all moving parts have come to a complete stop before touching it.
- 8. Before you re-start a piece of equipment, ensure that no one else will be endangered.





