

BATTERY SERVICE SAFETY

1 Protect Your Peepers

For those of us fortunate to have our sight intact, we would be foolish not to take steps to protect it. Just like wearing a bike helmet, it just makes sense. The effort to wear eye protection is minimal, but the benefits can be huge – this is not the place to take a short cut!



2 Know Your Voltage



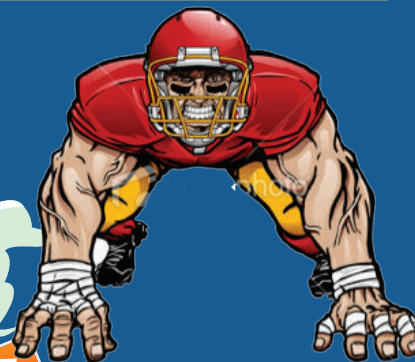
Most vehicles these days utilize a 12 Volt starting system – even most hybrids like the Toyota Prius. That said, you cannot take it for granted that the system you about to troubleshoot is a 12V system. It is critical that you know the system voltage and use equipment specifically designed for that voltage.

3 Live Cables are Hazardous

Whether connecting a jump starter to a disabled system or removing a battery from a vehicle for replacement, always follow proper connection / disconnection sequences. In some things we do, the order of operations isn't important. Battery service, like complex algebra, is not one of those things!

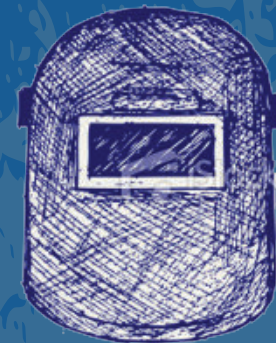


5 Position Yourself



4 No Unintentional Welding

Shorting across battery terminals is an experimental mode of welding no one should be attempting. Did you remove your ring(s) and watch before working around your battery? A battery is powerful enough to weld jewelry. Also, secure all metal tools to avoid contact with battery terminals.



6 Get a Shout Out!!!



When working around a battery, you should ensure that someone is within close enough proximity to hear your voice should any trouble develop. Batteries can be unpredictable, particular if they are compromised, which is likely why you are working one in the first place. Make sure you have backup.