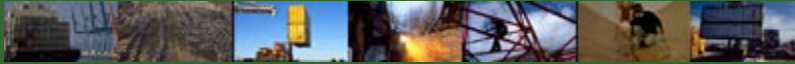




# Safety Meeting Outline



SMO 09-1104

## STORING, INSTALLING & CHARGING BATTERIES

*By SeaBright Insurance Loss Control*

Changing and charging vehicle batteries can expose you to hazards associated with corrosive liquids, flammable gas, lifting electric shock and explosion. It is important that these tasks be performed in the proper environment, using safe work practices and wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.

- Battery charging must be done in areas designated for that purpose. Employees working in this area must be trained in emergency procedures such as dealing with accidental acid spills.
- The area must be well-ventilated to prevent concentrations of flammable gases exceeding 20% of the lower explosive limit and to prevent harmful concentration of mist from the electrolyte.
- Face shields, eye protection, aprons, and rubber gloves shall be provided for workers handling acids or batteries.
- Where corrosive liquids are handled from open containers or drawn from pipelines or reservoirs, adequate means shall be provided to neutralize spills and overflows.
- Carboy tilter or siphon must be used for dispensing electrolyte or acid.
- Charging apparatus must be protected from damage by mobile equipment.
- Appropriate mechanical lifting and material handling devices must be provided.
- Smoking is prohibited in the charging area. Open flames, sparks and electric arcs must be prevented.
- Support/storage racks must be made of materials non-conductive to spark generation. Tools and other metal objects are to be kept away from the top of uncovered batteries. Chargers are to be turned off when leads are connected/disconnected.
- Electrolyte must be mixed in a well-ventilated room. Acids or bases are to be poured gradually into the water while stirring. Water may never be poured into concentrated acid solutions.
- Vehicles shall be properly positioned and brakes applied before attempting to charge/change batteries.
- While batteries are being charged, vent caps must be kept firmly in place to prevent electrolyte spray. Make sure the vent caps are functioning. The battery compartment covers are to be opened to allow heat to dissipate.
- Facilities for the quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within 25 feet of battery handling areas.
- When taking specific gravity reading, the open end of the hydrometer is to be covered with an acid resistant material while moving it from battery to battery to avoid splashing or throwing the electrolyte.
- When a jumper battery is connected to a battery in a vehicle, the ground lead shall connect to a ground away from the vehicle's battery. Ignition lights and accessories on the vehicle shall be turned off before connections are made.
- Vent caps are to be in place when batteries are being moved.





# SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

DEPARTMENT/JOB SITE: \_\_\_\_\_ MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Open Meeting & Present safety topic:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read minutes from previous meeting.
3. **Persons present:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. **Old Business** – Status of previous recommendations. Discuss pending old business if any.
5. **Accidents** – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting. Brief summary of accidents to date by number and type. Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken, or needed. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.
6. **Inspection Reports** – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.
7. **New Business** – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

TIME MEETING STARTED: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME FINISHED: \_\_\_\_\_

MEETING CHAIRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_