Handling Automotive Batteries

Lead-acid batteries contain sulfuric acid and lead inside a plastic container.

Under normal conditions of battery handling and use, these components do not present a hazard.

The following information is provided for battery acid exposure that may occur following a container breakage or the battery is tipped over causing the acid to leak out.

Use extreme care to avoid spilling or splashing the sulfuric acid solution. It can destroy clothing and burn the eyes and skin.

Always wear splash-proof goggles and protective clothing (gloves and aprons) when dealing with acid spillages. A face shield (with safety goggles) may also be necessary.

Batteries can weigh between 14 to 27 kg (30 to 60 lb) so practice safe lifting and carrying procedures to prevent back injuries. Use a battery carrier to lift a battery, or place hands at opposite corners.

What to do if battery acid is splashed on eyes or skin

If the eyes are splashed with acid:

Use an emergency eyewash station if solution is splashed into the eyes.

Immediately flush the contaminated eye(s) with clean, lukewarm, gently flowing water for at least 15 - 30 minutes, by the clock, while holding the eyelid(s) open.

If irritation persists, repeat flushing. Neutral saline solution may be used as soon as it is available.

DO NOT INTERRUPT FLUSHING.

Take care not to rinse contaminated water into the unaffected eye or onto the face.

First aiders should avoid direct contact. Wear chemical protective gloves, if necessary.

Quickly transport the victim to an emergency care facility.

If the skin is splashed with acid:

As quickly as possible, flush the contaminated area with lukewarm, gently flowing water for at least 15 - 30 minutes, by the clock.

If irritation persists, repeat flushing. **DO NOT INTERRUPT FLUSHING.**

Under running water, remove contaminated clothing, shoes and leather goods (e.g., watchbands, belts). Discard contaminated clothing, shoes and leather goods.

Transport the victim to an emergency care facility immediately.

Transporting Automotive Batteries

New Batteries

New batteries should be transported in a tote with at least one terminal covered to prevent any risk of a short circuit.

The tote should be packed out with scrap cardboard or shrink wrap to prevent the battery (or batteries) from tipping over in transit. Do not overload the tote.

The tote should be labeled with a *Battery* and a *Heavy* sticker.

If a single tote is being sent, attach a TDG (8) Corrosive sticker to the tote. If multiple totes are used attach the sticker to the pallet or Buckhorn.

Core Batteries

A core battery pallet should be started by placing a layer of scrap cardboard on top of the pallet. Place a *Pallet Battery Bag* (STN 584842) on the cardboard and put a core battery in each corner to hold the bag open on the pallet (see picture).

Fill in the bottom level with more batteries. When the bottom layer is completed, place cardboard eggshell separator (available from the warehouse) on top of the batteries to prevent exposed posts from damaging the batteries above and begin another layer of batteries.

Repeat the process for a maximum of 3 layers and place a layer of cardboard on the top to prevent any possibility of a short circuit or splashing of acid.

When completed secure the battery bag to the top cardboard with tape and note the number of batteries on the pallet.

The pallet should be shrink-wrapped to secure the batteries and a TDG (8) *Corrosive* sticker attached. There should also be an OVERPACK label ((PAP) S-10798) on the pallet to comply with the latest TDG regulations.

DO NOT use Buckhorns for Core Batteries.

Missing Caps/Damaged Batteries

If a battery is missing caps or is leaking acid it MUST NOT be transported until the caps are replaced or the acid drained and neutralised. Alternatively pour Absorball ((444) 628N) into the battery to absorb the acid in order to prevent leakage or splashing, and seal the openings with tape.

Extreme care should be taken when dealing with battery acid (see notes on handling batteries).

Use Absorball to soak up any spilled acid and neutralise with baking soda or other neutralising agent.

Be careful not to splash the acid when adding the Absorball.

The battery should be placed in a heavy duty plastic bag which can then be placed on the core pallet.

Contaminated Absorball should be disposed of as Hazardous Waste.

Starting the core pallet using a battery bag.