



Lockout/Tagout: What about Motor Vehicles?

It is important to remember to use lockout/tagout procedures when we work on cars, trucks, and other vehicles powered by internal combustion engines. To overlook safety while working on these types of equipment would be wrong, as it could lead to an injury, or even death!

Performing service or maintenance on vehicles powered by internal combustion engines exposes employees to a variety of hazardous energy sources.

Obviously, if someone were to inadvertently start the engine of a vehicle while another person is working underneath the vehicle or beneath the hood, that person could suffer injuries from turning belts and pulleys, fans, or other moving parts. And in some cases, just bumping the ignition of a vehicle equipped with a manual transmission could cause the vehicle to lurch forward and crush a person.

Remember to remove the ignition key from the ignition switch and place it in your pocket. Deactivate any remote starting features and disconnect battery cables.

Some other sources of hazardous energy associated with motor vehicles include, but are not limited to:

- Thermal energy (hot water in the radiator, usually under high pressure if the engine has been running for a while).
- Gravity, which could cause the vehicle to roll if it is parked on a slope.
- Vehicles that are equipped with hydraulic cylinders that raise and lower a dump bed, mast, or other heavy components could come crashing down if the hydraulic pressure were to be released.
- Shock from ignition systems.

It may be necessary to lower or block up elevated components such as crane booms and forklift masts that are held up by hydraulic pressure.

Chock or block wheels to prevent vehicles from rolling when necessary.

As you can see, we have these, and other, hazardous energy sources associated with motor vehicles. So always make sure you are familiar with all the various types of hazardous energy to which you are exposed and the procedures to address these types of hazardous energy.



Remember: "No task is so important that it be done at the risk of Safety."