

## DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ California automotive repair industry **workers' compensation costs** during the period 1993 to 2002 for a large insurer were approximately **\$60 million** for **over 10,000 claims**.
- ▶ **Illnesses and diseases** from toxic exposures can take a long time to become apparent and are often not reported and diagnosed as being related to work.
- ▶ During the period 1993 to 2003, **Cal/OSHA** inspected **520 auto repair shops** and cited a total of **1,729 violations** in 411 of the shops. Seventeen percent of the inspections were in response to serious injuries.
- ▶ The average **Cal/OSHA penalty** per auto repair shop inspection between January 1, 2000, and June 30, 2003, was **\$3,253**.



## Regulations that help prevent injury, illness, and pollution

- ▶ **Injury and Illness Prevention Program.** Major elements include: methods for identifying and quickly correcting hazards; health and safety training; a health and safety communication system; and record-keeping. See [www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3203.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3203.html).
- ▶ **Hazard Communication.** Employers must tell workers if hazardous substances are used in their work areas, provide training on their safe use, and make Material Safety Data Sheets available. See [www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5194.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5194.html).
- ▶ **Chlorinated Toxic Air Contaminants.** Prohibits use of automotive consumer products that contain methylene chloride, perchloroethylene, or trichloroethylene. See [www.arb.ca.gov/regact/amr/finreg.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/amr/finreg.pdf).
- ▶ **Hazardous waste regulations.** Prohibits storing, transporting, disposing of, or handling hazardous waste in a manner that threatens public health and safety or the environment. (Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 66262.10).

## WHERE TO GET HELP

- ▶ **HESIS** answers questions about chemicals and other workplace hazards and has many free publications available.  
For information on workplace hazards: (866) 282-5516.  
For HESIS publications: (866) 627-1586, or visit our website at [www.cdph.gov/hesis](http://www.cdph.gov/hesis)
- ▶ **California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA)** investigates workers' complaints and makes enforcement inspections. Complainants' identities are kept confidential. Call the nearest Cal/OSHA district office or see [www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/districtoffices.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/districtoffices.htm)
- ▶ **Cal/OSHA Consultation Service** helps employers who want free, non-enforcement help to evaluate the workplace and improve health and safety conditions.  
Call (800) 963-9424 and see [www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/puborder.asp](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/puborder.asp)
- ▶ **Cal/EPA and the U.S. EPA** have pollution prevention information for auto repair and maintenance shops.  
Call (916) 322-3670 and see [www.epa.gov/region09/p2/autofleet](http://www.epa.gov/region09/p2/autofleet)

## INJURY, ILLNESS, & POLLUTION PREVENTION IN AUTO REPAIR



Identifying and Controlling Hazards to Protect Workers, Communities, & the Environment  
**HAZARD EVALUATION SYSTEM & INFORMATION SERVICE**

# HESIS

Occupational Health Branch  
California Department of  
Public Health

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor  
State of California

Kimberly Belshé, Secretary  
Health and Human Services Agency

Victoria L. Bradshaw, Secretary  
Labor and Workforce Development Agency

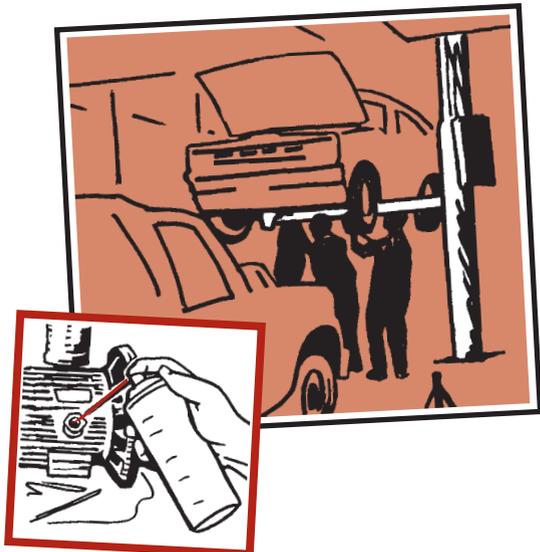
Sandra Shewry, Director  
Department of Health Services

John Rea, Acting Director  
Department of Industrial Relations



## Why are auto repair hazards a concern?

- ▶ Every day, auto shops use chemicals and equipment that can cause serious health problems, environmental pollution, and disabling injuries.
- ▶ Understanding the health hazards of chemicals, choosing safer products, and complying with regulations to protect workers and the environment is a tough job.
- ▶ Shop hazards harm more than workers. Families, employers, and society all share in the costs of medical care, lost productivity, chemical contamination, fires, and the reduced quality of life.

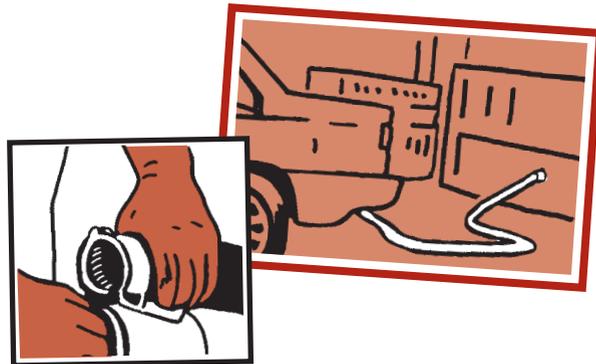


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## Can injury, illness, and pollution be prevented?

### YES!

- ▶ Develop and implement an injury, illness, and pollution prevention plan for your shop.
- ▶ Identify chemical, fire, noise, safety, and environmental hazards. Train workers on the hazards and on the shop's methods to control hazards.
- ▶ Switch to water-based cleaners and other safer products whenever possible. Dispose of hazardous waste properly.
- ▶ Inspect tools and other equipment regularly. Maintain them in good working condition.
- ▶ Encourage early reporting of hazards and symptoms.



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## HOW TO PROTECT AGAINST COMMON HEALTH HAZARDS

- ▶ Switch to water-based cleaners and other safe products, ensure proper ventilation, and use safe work procedures to prevent nervous and reproductive system damage, and cancer caused by toxic **solvents**.
- ▶ Keep dust wet at all times and do not clean with compressed air when repairing brakes and clutches to protect against cancer and lung disease from **asbestos** that is still used in some vehicles.
- ▶ Connect hoses (leading outside) to vehicle exhaust pipes and minimize running engines indoors to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning from **engine exhaust**, and to prevent lung cancer and asthma from **diesel engine exhaust**.
- ▶ Wear protective gloves, like nitrile, to prevent skin rash (dermatitis) from **solvents, oil, and grease**, and burns from **acids and caustics**. Thin, low-cost, disposable nitrile gloves are available. Latex gloves are not protective and can cause allergic skin rash and asthma.

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## PREVENT INJURIES FROM COMMON SAFETY HAZARDS

- ▶ Adjust tongue guards and work rests on **grinders** and wear face shields to prevent **eye injuries** caused by metal fragments and other foreign bodies getting into the eye.
- ▶ Provide well-designed and maintained tools, mechanical lifts, and training to prevent **back and arm injuries** from **heavy lifting, overexertion, working in awkward positions**, and **forceful and repetitive use of tools**.
- ▶ Keep shops clean and orderly, use spill prevention equipment, and clean up spills promptly to prevent **slip and trip injuries** caused by **spilled oil, grease, and water** on floors and **objects left in walking paths**.
- ▶ Keep ignition sources away from **flammable liquids** and follow other safety procedures to prevent **fires**.
- ▶ Use well-maintained auto lifts and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)-approved jack stands when **working under raised vehicles** to prevent **deaths** and **disabling bodily injuries**.

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