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SAFETY ALERT

Runaway Vehicle in Automotive Repair Shop

Purpose

This safety alert informs motor sport stakeholders including, officials, competitors and pit/service crews of the danger of working on vehicles and the need to control unintended movement of vehicle 's whilst repairs are being carried out . It also highlights the need to consult and develop specific control measures, in consultation with members of your team or crew in dealing with risks.

Circumstances

Recently, an incident took place where a motor mechanic started a vehicle by bridging the ignition/starter motor wiring in the engine bay. The vehicle had been left in 'drive ' and although the hand brake had been applied ,the vehicle surged forward and pushed a sixteen year old through a brick and glass wall from the first floor of the workshop to the car park below. The apprentice and the motor mechanic narrowly escaped serous injury or death.

In all areas where mechanical repairs or other type of work is carried out on vehicles, those person (s) in control of the area should take appropriate steps to eliminate or minimise any foreseeable risk to the health, safety and welfare of all those working in the area, and for those who may be considered ' visitors. '

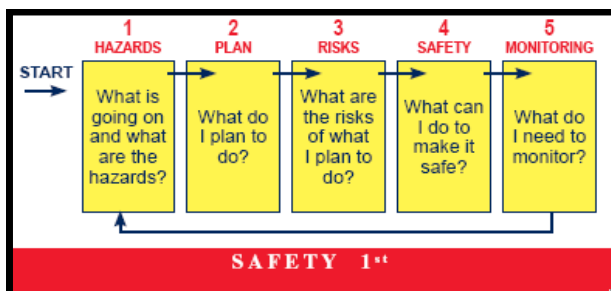
Recommendations

Person (s) in control of workshops, pit garages or marquee's should develop specific control measures in consultation with all those working on the vehicles to ensure that the most effective controls are put in place to prevent such incidents occurring.

The ' mechanic ' or the team manager in control of the area should ensure that ;

- the vehicle is in park or neutral for an automatic vehicle, or neutral for a manual, before the engine is started ;
- someone is in the vehicle with their foot on the brake ;
- no one is standing in front of the vehicle or behind the vehicle when the engine is started ;
- wheel chocks or (other safety devices) are used when required , and
- remove unnecessary person (s) from the immediate work area whilst work on the car is taking place.

In summary, before working on a vehicle you must asses the risks of the work you are about to carry out and make sure you reduce them. Also before you start, *Do yourself a favour.... Deal with the risks !* . Follow the five- step process below which provides a *likelihood* and *consequence* matrix to assist in ranking the risk which helps to decide how urgent the action needs to be.



LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE			
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major
A – Almost certain	H	H	E	E
B – Likely	M	H	H	E
C – Possible	L	M	H	E
D – Unlikely	L	L	M	H

E EXTREME: Immediate actions required.
H HIGH: Senior Management (Senior Event Official) attention needed.
M MEDIUM: Management (Organiser) responsibility must be specified.
L LOW: Manage by current procedures/ continue current process.

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