

# Mechanic Fact Sheet



## WHAT DO MECHANICS DO?

Mechanics work in many different industries including aviation, automotive, commercial, industrial or residential settings. Some of their main duties are to:

- Install, repair and maintain mechanical systems.
- Prepare cost estimates and documentation for clients.
- Use, clean and maintain various equipment and machines.
- Supervise apprentices or other workers.

## What are some health and safety issues for mechanics?

- Mechanics work in a variety of settings and may be exposed to several hazards, including:
- Exposure to chemicals, solvents, solder, and other products.
- Exposure to gasoline or diesel exhaust.
- Risk of electrical shock or burns.
- Fire risk from fuels and other products.
- Burns from battery acid, hot surfaces, exhaust, etc.
- Potentially working in confined spaces.
- Welding hazards, including UV radiation.
- Working with compressed air.
- Working near rotating parts (being caught in or between).
- Working with explosive items, such as air bags.
- Bursting of tires while repairing or installing.
- Extreme temperatures.
- Risk of pain or injury from awkward positions, repetitive manual tasks, or lifting heavy objects.
- Risk of falling objects (including the vehicle) when working under vehicles, or with jacks, hoists, or hydraulic lifts.
- Possibility of working at heights.
- Risk of eye injury from flying particles.
- Risk of hand injuries.
- Slips, trips and falls.
- Working with various hand tools, power tools and equipment.
- Stress.
- Shift work or extended work days.
- Working alone.
- Possible exposure to asbestos.
- Exposure to noise.

- Dealing with hostile customers.

#### **What are some preventive measures for mechanics?**

- Keep tools and equipment in good working order.
- Work safely with chemicals and related products.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment for the task, including footwear.
- Keep work areas clear of clutter and equipment.
- Avoid awkward positions, and repetitive tasks, or take frequent breaks.
- Learn safe lifting techniques.
- Follow a recommended shift work pattern, and know the associated hazards.
- Inspect work area before work starts to identify potential hazards and their controls.
- Follow workplace policies and procedures relating to preventing workplace violence and harassment

Please also see the series of OSH Answers fact sheets on how to work safely in a garage which includes autobody repair, batteries, fuel safety, hydraulic lifts, inflating tires, servicing vehicles and other topics.

#### **What are some good general safe work practices?**

- Follow correct procedures for:
  - Working in a Garage
  - Electrical safety
  - Lock-out/tag-out
  - Confined spaces entry
  - Working at heights
  - Working with ladders
  - Lifting
  - Working with hand tools, and power tools
  - Fire safety
  - Welding and Hot Work
- Use, maintain and store personal protective equipment according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Learn about chemical hazards, WHMIS and SDSs.
- Know how to report a hazard.
- Follow good housekeeping procedures.
- Follow company safety rules.

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