

Battery Charging/Jump-Starting

A dead battery is a common occurrence at most dealerships. Batteries contain acid, which gives off flammable and explosive gas when a battery is charged or jump-started. The corrosive acid is capable of eating away metal and one drop can cause serious eye damage.

Here are some basic safety points to remember:

- When involved in jump-starting, employees must wear safety glasses.
- Make sure the cables are hooked up correctly.
- Connect the cable to the positive battery terminal first.
- To avoid creating sparks connect the negative cable to a clean, unpainted part of the car's body, frame, or engine that is NOT in close proximity to moving parts or the battery itself.
- Battery charging must be completed in a safe location, to limit the accumulation and exposure of fumes, gases, or electrolyte spray.
- Vent caps must be maintained in working condition and kept in place at all times.
- Smoking is prohibited in the battery charging areas and during jump-starting.
- When involved in charging or handling of electrolyte or other hazardous materials, you must wear a face shield, apron and rubber gloves.
- An eyewash station must be located within 25 feet of the battery handling/charging area.
- Always double check to be certain the cables are properly connected to the proper terminals.
- Always attempt to attach the grounding clamp of the jumper cables of the unit being jumped to a remote ground (equipment frame) from the battery to eliminate sparking, which can cause the battery to explode.

Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations when jump starting vehicles or equipment.

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