

Student Handout

Engine Safety

Vehicle engines are powerful machines with many moving parts. They have the potential to cause serious injury, so care and attention is required at all times.

Examples of hazards

- contact with moving parts such as drive belts, pulley or fans
- electric shock
- burns
- carbon monoxide poisoning

Safety tips

- Remove rings, metal watches and bracelets, and loose clothing such as a scarf before working on any engine.
- Tie back long hair.
- Keep your hands away from moving parts.
- Use extreme caution around engine fans which may strike you, fling things at you, start unexpectedly, or catch dangling leads or strings.
- Avoid touching hot engine parts; never open the radiator on a hot engine.
- Do not run engines in enclosed, indoor spaces and always guard against carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Avoid electric shock from battery or ignition systems.
- Never open the radiator cap on a hot engine—allow the engine to cool for at least an hour before attempting to open the cap. Even then, use extreme caution. Place a rag over the cap, then loosen it slowly to the first detent or stop. At this point any residual pressure and steam should be released. Wait until all pressure has escaped before removing the cap the rest of the way.

