



### Instructor Guide

#### Working around the service pit

**Topic Overview** (why the topic is important to the students)

Many vehicle repair shops still have service pits for inspecting and repairing the underside of vehicles without using a hoist. The service pit can be hazardous to workers. Workers can fall into the pit accidentally, if it is left unguarded. The combination of inadequate lighting and pit floors slippery with oil and other lubricating fluids, increase the risk of slips, trips and falls. If proper ventilation is not provided, noxious exhaust gases such as deadly carbon monoxide can pool in the pit.

#### Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- **Discuss** the hazards of working around or in the service pit.
- **Discuss** how injuries can occur in or around the pit.
- **Tour the pit area of the shop** (or print and distribute the photo of a service pit on the following page) with the students, pointing out the hazards.
- **Distribute** the student handout.
- **Review** the safety tips.
- **Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of injuries associated with the pit (e.g., guardrail, cleaning, tool storage, good ventilation).
- **Make it real.** Tell at least two stories from your experience of accidents involving service pits, or use the following example:
  - A worker was guiding a vehicle over the pit, backing up as he directed the driver. He inadvertently fell into the pit backwards, suffering a minor concussion and bruised tailbone.
- **Discuss** the attitude that “it won’t happen to me”. Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
- **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about service pit hazards.
- **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
- **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

#### Resources

- Regulation Part 4.54  
<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part4.asp>

# YoungWorkers

6-minute **safety talk** for auto mechanics



**WORK SAFE BC**

WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE