

Student Handout

Working around the service pit

Many vehicle repair centres still have service pits for inspecting and repairing the underside of vehicles without using a hoist. Working around a service pit requires extra caution at all times.

Examples of hazards

- ❑ falling into the service pit
- ❑ spilled oil or other slippery liquids
- ❑ accumulation of noxious gases

Safety tips

- ❑ Ensure the guard rail is up around the service pit when not in use.
- ❑ Guide vehicles over the service pit from the side. Never stand in front of a vehicle as you direct it over the service pit, because vehicles in need of repair may move forward unexpectedly.
- ❑ Keep the floor of the pit clear of spills, tools, parts and other clutter.
- ❑ Ensure you have good lighting—use a portable work light if necessary.
- ❑ Stay alert for signs that noxious gases are accumulating. You may not be able to smell them (for example, carbon monoxide is colourless and odourless). Instead, pay attention to how you are feeling – early signs that you may be exposed to noxious gases include dizziness, nausea, vomiting, chest tightness, irritability, impaired judgment, and loss of consciousness.

If a co-worker displays any of these signs, remove the person from the service pit immediately and call for emergency first aid.

