

TIP SHEET

A series of health and safety tips to prevent work-related injuries in the trucking industry

Take Charge of Batteries



Battery charging requires a safe charging area, training, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

A fully-charged battery keeps trucks and forklifts rolling. Charging is key to maintaining battery performance and life, but not without hazards. People forget about the dangers of weight, sulfuric acid, and hydrogen gas. These [require](#) proper handling and storage to prevent strains, burns, and explosions. You can greatly reduce these risks by following a few specific steps to make sure the job is done safely. A great way to start is by reviewing these battery [charging area](#) and [servicing](#) regulations and planning [resources](#).



Washington State Department of
Labor & Industries



TIPS TO LIVE BY

- ❑ Designate a room for chargers and batteries with outside ventilation to diffuse flammable hydrogen gases.
- ❑ Stock safety gear and battery handling equipment in the charging area, including:
 - Impact barriers, fire extinguishers, and acid-neutralizing spill kits.
 - Insulated tools, a conveyor, overhead hoist, or side extractor for forklift batteries.
 - Remember Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): chemical-resistant face shields, aprons, and rubber gloves when handling and charging batteries.
- ❑ Make sure racks, trays, and floors are sturdy and acid-resistant.
- ❑ Post no smoking signs and keep the charging area clear of [flames, spark, and arcing sources](#), including [metallic tools and jewelry](#).
- ❑ An [emergency shower and eyewash station](#) must be located less than 50 feet from the charging area.
- ❑ Keep battery vent caps in place while moving batteries to prevent acid spray.
- ❑ Allow only trained employees to charge batteries.

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KeepTruckingSafe.org

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