

Motorized Equipment

GENERAL SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGING AND CHARGING STORAGE BATTERIES

- 1 Battery charging installations should be located in areas designated for that purpose. Provisions should be made for flushing and neutralizing spilled electrolyte, for fire protection, and for protection of charging apparatus from being damaged by trucks. These areas should be provided with adequate ventilation for dispersal of fumes from gassing batteries.
- 2 To avoid strains from manual handling of heavy awkward loads, a roller conveyer and/or a suitable overhead hoist or equivalent materials handling equipment should be provided for the changing of batteries. A carboy tilter or siphon is recommended for handling acid.
- 3 Electrical apparatus installations should conform to the National Electrical Code (ASI Standard C1-1965 and NFPA Standard No. 70), and any local ordinances.
- 4 Only properly trained and authorized individuals should change or charge batteries.
- 5 Trucks should be properly positioned and brakes set before attempting to change or charge batteries.
- 6 When charging batteries, keep the vent caps in place to avoid electrolyte spray.
- 7 Smoking should be prohibited as a precaution against ignition of released hydrogen. In addition, keep tools from the top of the battery to avoid short circuits.
- 8 Always pour acid into water—not water into acid. (The heat of dilution is so great, that water poured on acid will boil and spatter.) Treat acid burns (lead-acid batteries) with baking soda and water. Treat electrolyte burns (alkaline batteries) with vinegar and water.

FIG 46-10

Courtesy The Industrial Truck Association

Rubber cement and flammable solvents used for patching inner tubes, and casing compounds used for filling tire cuts, should be kept in safety cans.

Electric heating elements used for vulcanizing or branding tires should be inspected regularly. Defective wiring should be replaced.

Where power-driven rasps or scrapers are used for casings or inner tubes, the operators should be required to wear goggles (see Chapter 32, "Hand and Portable Power Tools"). A local exhaust system should be

applied to these machines to keep the fine rubber dust out of the workroom air. This dust should be collected because deposits make walkways very slippery.

Fire prevention

Since fire is a hazard in the operation of heavy-duty trucks, they should be equipped with Type B-C fire extinguishers, listed by the Underwriters' Laboratories for use on burning oil, gasoline, grease, and electrical. The extinguisher may be placed in a convenient location in the cab or on the running