



## Automotive and Industrial Batteries

GEN-SR-6111

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## 1. Purpose

1.1. This document defines the safety requirements of working with automotive and industrial batteries.

## 2. Scope

2.1. This document applies to all Evergy employees and visitors when at any Evergy Generation facility or while performing Generation duties.

2.2. Contractors that do business with Evergy Generation shall comply with the Contractor Safety Requirements (CSR) document.

2.3. If local, state or federal laws and/or regulations pertaining to any given condition are more stringent than the Evergy rule, the more stringent law or regulation shall take precedence.

## 3. References

3.1. [OSHA Laws and Regulations](#)

3.2. [1910.305: Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment for General Use](#)

3.3. [1926.441: Batteries and Battery Charging](#)

## 4. Definitions

4.1. Industrial battery – Any sealed and unsealed battery or battery pack which is designed exclusively for industrial or professional uses. This does not include automotive or portable batteries.

## 5. Responsibility

5.1. All Evergy employees and visitors shall comply with this document when at any Generation facility or while performing Generation duties.

## 6. Safety

6.1. None additional.

## 7. Instructions

7.1. All batteries shall be inspected for damage before handling, jump starting or charging. Batteries with cracks, bulging or loose caps shall be taken out of service, tagged and properly disposed of or replaced.

7.2. See [GEN-SP-5101-01: Jump Starting a Vehicle](#) for guidance on jump-starting a vehicle.

7.3. Identification and warning signs shall be posted at all entrances to battery rooms or compartments.



- 7.4.** Flames, sparks and smoking is not permitted in the vicinity of storage batteries in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines. If the distance is in doubt check with supervision.
- 7.5.** Only non-sparking tools shall be used in the vicinity of batteries in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines. If the distance is in doubt check with supervision.
- 7.6.** Care shall be exercised when using tools around batteries to prevent short circuiting battery terminals.
- 7.7.** Batteries shall not be opened in spaces where the room temperature is above 125 °F. The room or compartment shall be ventilated and the temperature reduced before working on the batteries.
- 7.8.** The temperature of the battery compartment should be kept below 95 °F, if possible, and ventilation maintained.
- 7.9.** Electrolyte shall be kept at a level above the tops of the separators.
- 7.10.** When working around banks of batteries, if it becomes necessary to temporarily cover the batteries, as much air space as possible should be maintained between the temporary cover and the batteries. Water shall be available for washing any spilled electrolyte.
- 7.11.** Water shall not be poured into concentrated acid; acid shall always be poured slowly into water.
- 7.12.** If electrolyte is spilled on clothing, the contaminated clothing should be removed and the skin washed with water as soon as possible.
- 7.13.** Facilities for quick drenching of the eyes and body shall be provided within 25 feet of battery handling areas. Facility shall be tested prior to starting work.
- 7.14.** In remote areas where quick drenching facilities are not possible, the employee working on the batteries shall carry portable quick drenching water (eye wash facilities) and shall have it within 25 feet of the work area.
- 7.15.** Chemical goggles, face shields, acid-proof aprons and rubber gloves shall be worn by workers handling acids or batteries.
- 7.16.** Battery charging
- 7.16.1.** Battery charging shall only be performed by qualified employees.
- 7.16.2.** The manufacturer's recommendations shall be followed when charging batteries to prevent excessive gas buildup and explosions.
- 7.17.** Battery Charging Stations
- 7.17.1.** Battery charging stations shall be located in areas designated for that purpose.



**7.17.2.** Battery charging stations shall have facilities for flushing and neutralizing spilled electrolyte, fire protection, protecting charging apparatus from vehicle damage, and for adequate ventilation for fume dispersal.

**7.17.3.** Emergency eye washing facilities shall be located within 25 feet of all battery charging stations.

## **8. Documentation and Recordkeeping**

**8.1.** Generation Safety will maintain this rule. The original will be stored electronically by Generation Safety and a copy will be available for use on the Safety website. A signed hard copy will be maintained by Generation Safety. There will be no other hard copies produced or maintained. This rule shall be reviewed periodically by Generation Safety in accordance with department policy. Superseded revisions shall be archived in accordance with corporate policy.

**8.2.** To request a revision to this rule, see your supervisor or Safety Coordinator.

## **9. Attachments**

**9.1.** None.