

## Power Industrial Trucks-Battery Charging

Fires, explosions, and injuries may result from improper charging and handling of powered industrial truck batteries.

The following precautions should be observed to prevent losses:

1. Select the proper location – Charging operations should be conducted in an area with good natural ventilation and should be at least five feet from all combustible materials. Chargers for three or more trucks should be located in a separate room or area designated for this purpose.
2. Provide ventilation – Charging of three or more trucks in a single area requires an exhaust system ventilation to the outdoors to dissipate explosive gases.
3. Utilize proper electrical equipment – All such equipment in charging areas should be certified for such use by a recognized testing lab. (i.e. UL) and installed by a licensed electrician.
4. Protect personnel – Only trained personnel should perform battery charging. Eye protection and an eyewash/emergency shower are essential requirements. Avert strains by provision of appropriate equipment for handling batteries. Prevent falls by maintaining floors in dry condition at all times.

Additional preventive measures include the following:

- Keep battery vent caps in place when charging to prevent electrolyte spray.
- Assure that vent caps are unobstructed and operable.
- Vehicle battery compartments should be kept open when charging to dissipate heat.
- Keep tools and conductive material away from battery tops.
- Acid should be added to the water. Water should never be added to the acid. This will prevent violent reactions.
- Charging areas should be free of combustibles.
- Smoking, open flame, sparks, and electric arcs should be strictly prohibited in charging areas.
- Provide a means to promptly flush and neutralize spilled electrolyte.
- Properly secure batteries on trucks to prevent damage.
- Provide a UL listed portable fire extinguisher close to the charging area.
- Use carboy tilters for pouring concentrated acid.
- Provide barriers to protect chargers from damage.

**Smoking, open flame, sparks, and electric arcs should be strictly prohibited in charging areas.**

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued. 301 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 F13588A-LP (01/13)