



Automotive Repair & Maintenance Services

Advancing priorities through research and partnerships

Improvements through partnerships and research

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) is a partnership program to promote innovative research and improve workplace practices. Unveiled in 1996, NORA is a framework for guiding occupational safety and health research and interventions throughout the Nation. NORA stakeholders collaborate to identify critical workplace issues in industry sectors. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) convened a number of these partners to develop the National Services Agenda, which includes safety and health goals for the Automotive Repair industry. Groups such as employers, employee organizations, government agencies, and automotive repair/maintenance associations can build partnerships to implement these goals and help ensure that automotive repair and maintenance work environments are safe for all employees.

Who works in the automotive repair industry?

The automotive repair, maintenance and similar industries employ automotive service technicians and mechanics, automotive body repairers, automotive glass installers and bus/truck and diesel mechanics that total more than 1.3 million workers in the U.S.¹ Major segments of the industry are automobile dealerships, franchise general repair and specialty shops, and locally owned repair establishments.² Greater than 95% of the nearly 150,000 automotive repair and maintenance firms are small businesses that employ fewer than 20 people.³

What are the important health and safety issues in automotive repair?

- Injuries involving sprains and strains, cuts and lacerations, and bruises and contusions
- Events such as contact with objects or equipment, slips, trips and falls, and overexertion
- Injury sources like floor and ground surfaces, parts and materials, hand tools and vehicles
- Fatalities from contact with objects or equipment, especially struck by falling objects, transportation events, and fires and explosions
- Workplace violence and elevated homicide and suicide risks
- Exposures to chemicals, biological materials, vehicle exhaust, and asbestos



NIOSH is the federal agency responsible for conducting research and making recommendations to prevent work-related injury, illness, and death. Its mission is to generate new occupational safety and health knowledge and to transfer that knowledge into practice.

How can you help improve safety and health in automotive repair?

Small businesses may not have safety and health professionals on staff, yet they can reduce injury and illness risks by obtaining safety and health information and adopting recommended practices. Most trade associations, franchisors, workers' compensation insurance groups and state health or labor departments are excellent resources for safety and health program materials. Comprehensive injury and illness prevention programs are recommended to reduce the risks for occupational injury, illness and death.

You can:

- Identify and evaluate hazards and adopt effective hazard controls and safe work practices to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses.
- Lead a work group to address priority issues to help inform employers and policy makers about hazards and successful interventions.
- Assist in the design of an effective system to track occupational injuries and illnesses in the automotive repair/maintenance industry.
- Represent a partner organization to work on a goal implementation plan.
- Provide input to the NORA Coordinator on the implementation of goals (noracoordinator@cdc.gov) and suggest important issues to consider for future goals.



What are the Sector Goals for Automotive Repair?

The NORA Services Sector Council developed strategic goals for the Automotive Repair Industry to address priority workplace safety and health issues. The Council will ensure progress and track accomplishments through 2016.

Partnerships are needed to achieve these goals to reduce work-related injury, illness, and death among auto repair and maintenance services employees:

The above is a synopsis of the Automotive Repair goals established by the NORA Services Sector Council. To participate or to receive additional information please contact the Coordinating Committee For Automotive Repair (ccarinfo@ccar-greenlink.org) or David Utterback (dutterback@cdc.gov), NIOSH. Please note that any mention of any company or product does not constitute endorsement by NIOSH.

Where can I find safety and health information for the automotive repair industry?

Many groups have developed extensive and freely available training materials specific for the automotive repair and maintenance industry.

Coordinating Committee for Automotive Repair
www.ccar-greenlink.org/

Asbestos-Automotive Brake and Clutch Repair Work
www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib072606.html

Injury, Illness and Pollution Prevention in Auto Repair
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hesis/Documents/autorepair.pdf

Aerosol Cleaner Use in Auto Repair
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/hesis/Documents/aerosol.pdf

Workplace Hazards – Automotive
www.nycosh.org/index.php?page=automotive

Health and Safety in the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry
www.hse.gov.uk/mvr/

- Promote the development of comprehensive occupational safety and health programs for automotive repair and maintenance establishments.
- Evaluate potential exposures to hazardous materials in automotive repair and maintenance facilities.
- Develop and evaluate effective training materials that assist employers and employees in the recognition and control of hazardous materials in automotive repair and maintenance facilities.

References

¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.pdf

²U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, www.bls.gov/oco/ocos181.htm

³U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistics of U.S. Businesses*, www.census.gov/econ/susb/index.html