



## Hybrid Vehicle Safety

Do you drive a hybrid or electric vehicle? If so, you know that all hybrids share several unique features and driving experiences that are quite different from conventional gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles. Safety precautions are one area that differs significantly for drivers of hybrid vehicles. The following tips will help create a safer hybrid driving experience.

### **Look for warning labels**

High voltage components are clearly identified by warning labels that are attached to the vehicle. Additionally, high-voltage cables and wiring are generally colored orange for easy identification.

### **Never touch the high voltage system**

Hybrid and electric vehicle systems operate on high voltage, often in excess of 300 volts. Exposure to high voltage is very dangerous and can cause severe burns, shock and even death. Your vehicle's high voltage system does not contain any user serviceable parts. Never touch, disassemble, remove, replace or modify high voltage parts, cables, wiring or connectors.

### **Too hot to handle**

The high voltage system can be hot during and after starting and when the vehicle is shut off. Be mindful of high temperatures when opening the vehicle's hood. Also make sure not to block the high voltage battery's air intake. Without proper air flow, the high voltage battery can become too hot.

### **What if my vehicle needs service?**

The high voltage components in the vehicle can only be serviced by technicians with special training and tools. See your dealer if the high voltage system or battery needs service.

### **What if I'm involved in a collision?**

If a crash occurs and your vehicle's high voltage system is damaged, there is a possibility of electrical shock due to exposed high voltage components or wires. If this happens, do not touch any of the high voltage system components or any of its orange wires. If you are unable to safely assess your vehicle's condition due to collision damage, leave the vehicle and contact emergency services. Remember to advise emergency personnel that it is a hybrid or electric vehicle.

### **Avoid contact with high voltage battery fluid**

High voltage batteries contain a flammable electrolyte that could leak as a result of a severe crash. Avoid any skin or eye contact with the electrolyte as it is corrosive. If you accidentally touch it, flush your eyes or skin with a large quantity of water for at least five minutes, and seek medical attention immediately.

### **Emergency shutdown system**

If a hybrid or electric vehicle is in a crash, sensors may shut down the high voltage system. If this occurs, your vehicle no longer will move under its own power. To return the high voltage system back to normal operation it must be serviced by your dealer.

### **Read your owner's manual**

Familiarize yourself with the instructions and warnings supplied in your owner's manual and quick reference card. When using a public charger, also observe the charging station manufacturer's instructions.

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