

Quick Charge: EV Safety Snapshot

A quick safety guide to help your team stay alert and safe around high-voltage EV systems

Used EVs, Real Risks: How Techs Can Stay Safe and Sharp

The New Used-EV Reality

Used electric vehicles are flooding the market and they're not just on dealer lots anymore. They're rolling into independent shops, fleet garages, and service bays everywhere.

For technicians, this creates a new kind of risk. Unlike brand-new EVs, used models may come with:

- **Hidden battery damage** from accidents or improper charging
- **Outdated or missing service records**
- **Wear and tear on insulation, cables, and safety systems**
- **Aftermarket modifications** that change the original design

One mistake — one cut wire, one missed step — can mean severe injury, fire, or a shop shut down. The shops that thrive are those that see readiness as a competitive edge: keeping crews confident, protecting uptime, and building trust with every customer who drives away.

5 Essentials for Tech-Ready EV Safety

1. **Spot the Hidden Hazards**
Know where every high-voltage component is located even if the vehicle's labels are worn, missing, or different from the OEM diagram.
2. **Build Fast, Clear Decision Paths**
Define who stops the job, who isolates power, and who takes the lead if something looks wrong. Confusion wastes seconds you don't have.
3. **Go Beyond OEM Instructions**
Adapt procedures to account for aftermarket changes, aging components, and real-world shop conditions — not just what's on paper.
4. **Connect the Whole Crew**
From intake to final inspection, make sure every tech knows how the handoffs work. One missed update can leave someone exposed.
5. **Train Like It's Real**
Practice under pressure: buzzing bays, tight timelines, and stressed crews. Drills that simulate the chaos of real work make safe responses automatic.

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Smart Training for Every Used EV

Used EV Readiness Checklist

Equipment & Assets

- ☐ Map hazard zones for every model, especially when labels are faded, missing, or inconsistent
- ☐ Keep isolation points clearly marked and easy to reach, even in a crowded bay
- ☐ Inspect batteries and HV components for hidden damage from accidents, rough charging, or poor past repairs

Roles & Responsibilities

- ☐ Define exactly who stops the job, isolates power, and takes the lead during HV work
- ☐ Cross-train backups so one absence never leaves a critical step uncovered

Procedures

- ☐ Adapt OEM guidance for older, modified, or imported EVs that don't match "standard" instructions
- ☐ Review and update procedures regularly so nothing gets outdated or ignored

Training & Drills

- ☐ Run realistic, high-pressure drills that mirror the chaos of a busy shop
- ☐ Train every tech in the full incident response sequence, not just their part of the process

Communication & Coordination

- ☐ Use clear signals when HV work starts and ends so no one is caught off guard
- ☐ Build a culture where speaking up about concerns is immediate, expected, and respected

What the Best Shops Do

1. Post It Where They Work

Hazard maps and shutdown steps aren't hidden in a binder — they're in plain sight, right where the work happens. Quick access means quick action.

2. Define Triggers

Clear red flags are set: when to stop, when to isolate, and who takes charge. No hesitation, no confusion.

3. Customize Everything

Used EVs bring surprises — worn parts, aftermarket tweaks, imports. The best shops adjust OEM guidance so it works in real conditions.

4. Practice as a Crew

Everyone participates — from service writer to master tech. Rehearsing together ensures handoffs are smooth when it matters.

5. Drill Under Pressure

Shops are noisy, busy, and full of distractions. Training under those same conditions makes safe responses automatic.

6. Update and Improve

After each drill or incident, procedures get refined so lessons turn into stronger routines.

Why Technicians Choose DEKRA

For over 100 years, DEKRA has helped crews close safety gaps. Today, we're one of the only providers tailoring **EV Safety Training specifically for technicians working with used and aging EVs.**

We adapt our training to your shop, your fleet, and your conditions — integrating NFPA, OSHA, and your internal requirements. ***The result: technicians who act with speed and confidence in real-world service bays, without slowing down work.***

**Tailored EV Safety Training.
For your shop, your fleet, your conditions.**

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