

Quick Charge: EV Safety Snapshot

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

Before You Sign Off: What Every Supervisor Should Know About EV Safety

You don't need to be a technician to keep your team safe around electric vehicles. But if you're overseeing work, you *do* need a few key checks in your back pocket.

Because in EV environments, assumptions lead to oversights and oversights can lead to unnecessary risk.

Why This Matters

High-voltage EVs don't *look* dangerous when energized—no rumble, no exhaust, no ignition noise. That makes key hazards easy to miss, especially for supervisors not working directly on the vehicle. In recent DEKRA site visits, we've seen:

- Supervisors signing off before insulation tools were removed
- EVs parked in walkways with no visible charge status
- Panels left open after work with no verification

These aren't failures. They're fixable blind spots.

The 5 Checks to Make Before Signing Off on EV Work

- 1. Ask to see the HV label or tag system.**
If the vehicle was powered down, was it also tagged? If not, the next person might assume it's safe when it's not.
- 2. Verify test-and-ground was done.**
Simply disconnecting a battery isn't enough. Was the system confirmed *with a voltmeter* and grounded using proper PPE?
- 3. Look for visual clues: cones, tape, signage.**
No markings = unclear boundaries. Ask: "If I were new here, would I know where to stand?"
- 4. Confirm tools were removed and caps replaced.**
Loose tools or exposed terminals can be signs that safety procedures were rushed or incomplete.
- 5. Check the communication log (even informal).**
Was status communicated clearly to all nearby crews, including cleaning staff, warehouse workers, or contractors?

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Safer fleets start with smarter training.

On-the-Ground Advice: Spot Gaps Before They Become Problems

Want to lead confidently in EV environments? These proactive habits help you catch small issues before they become real problems, and show your team that safety is everyone's job, not just the tech's.

Ask this during every walk-through:

"What's the one thing that could catch someone off guard here?"

You'd be surprised what you'll learn. This question sparks honest conversation and helps uncover hidden risks like a stray tool, a missing label, or a shared zone that isn't clearly marked.

Post a "Charge Status" dry-erase board near EV work zones.

Even if your team doesn't use a formal lockout system, a visible board lets everyone know the current state of any EV in progress. It's a simple, low-tech tool that builds situational awareness across roles.

Check for legacy habits.

Some workers may still follow old procedures built for gas-powered vehicles. Watch for habits like skipping grounding steps or skipping PPE during "quick checks." These aren't acts of defiance, they're gaps in adaptation. A quick reset goes a long way.

Reinforce one message each day.

Pick a 30-second safety message tied to EVs and repeat it in tailgates, shift huddles, or walk-throughs. Repetition turns awareness into habit.

One More Thing: Watch the Watchers

Even your most experienced team members can miss a step, especially when the task feels routine. That's *why supervisor visibility matters.*

When you ask questions or check in mid-task, your team sees that safety isn't just paperwork, it's part of how the job gets done. Try this:

- **Ask instead of assume.** "Walk me through what you just did." It promotes clarity without blame.
- **Catch good habits.** Call out when someone uses insulated tools or checks signage, it reinforces what's working.
- **Switch up your timing.** Don't just walk through at the end. Stop by mid-task to catch gaps early and stay connected.

Leadership isn't about perfection, it's about presence. And presence keeps people sharp.

Where DEKRA Comes In

Supervisors need clear, practical tools to lead with confidence. DEKRA helps fleet and shop leaders build EV safety systems that work in the real world. We help you:

- Clarify sign-off steps
- Standardize visual markings
- Train non-tech staff on what to look for

Let's make EV safety leadership simple and strong.

**Questions?
We're here to help.**

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