

Hazards of Hybrids

Post by Jo Carey
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The health risks of the high voltage in hybrid cars may be questionable, but safety concerns regarding electrocution for mechanics and emergency responders are real.

Testing on hybrid vehicles reveals strong electromagnetic fields which some scientists associate with a number of health risks, including an increased risk of cancer.

These risks may be eclipsed by the more immediate risk of electrocution, if a spark is ignited. Maintenance or repair work on hybrids requires specially trained mechanics.

In the event of an accident, some are concerned that a spark could be caused by forced entry from the jaws of life, some consider this an urban myth. Manual info states that once the "switch" is thrown, there should be no power in the engine bay, however, there is no safe way to test for power in the engine bay, since a slip of the wrench could lead to arcing and burns or electrocution.

So...if you have a hybrid, make sure you read all the safety info!

For more info:

Hybridcars.com

KBMT12.com

aa1car.com

MotorAuthority.com

SceneOfTheAccident.org

Image source: endgadget.com