

"ELECTRIC CARS" A MONUMENTAL RISK

By: Dan Baldyga

The increasing popularity of the "Offspring's" of the typical motor vehicle companies (The Electric Car) should be of profound concern to all of us. Those who cut the wrong electric cable (trying to prevent a fire in a conventional vehicle, after a crash) may find themselves in deep trouble, should this be done to a smashed-up, high-voltage electric car, at night in the rain. The best advice you can have (when dealing with an "Electric Car") is not to do ANYTHING until you observe somebody else touch it and come away from that without getting shocked right into the depths of their body, bones and brains!

The injuries or fatalities that come from these half-gasoline, half-electric vehicles, have not as yet been recorded but that's not to say it hasn't already happened! The "Problems" we all must face, when it comes to this new technology, are monumental because minus-zip is known about them. This situation is not going away because difficult air-quality laws are driving electric vehicle production for the West Coast market and the rest of America is closing in fast. Toyota and Honda are selling their electric cars nationally. Honda has sold thousands of "Insights" (a gasoline-powered car that gets a boost from an electric motor) since their two-seater came into the marketplace in late 1999. As of today Toyota has sold even more thousands of the five-passenger "Prius" and has a 6 month waiting list. Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, Volvo and Mazda will be offering them for sale very shortly.

And so, those reading this article, should consider this to be a deadly warning: The "Prius" battery pack has a 300-volt charge with enough amperage to IMMEDIATELY KILL YOU - - right then and there!

In various suggested literature we are advised to carry insulated rubber gloves, goggles, face shields, protective clotting, safety boots, litmus paper and neutralizing agents in case of electrical shorts or batter acid leaks. QUESTION: Do most of those reading this article understand how to use them when and if it becomes necessary? ANSWER: Probably not! QUESTION: Will the proper usage and/or wear of these items ensure they're not going to get hurt? ANSWER: This is untested and unknown.

The "Prius" relies primarily on its electric motor. Its gasoline engine kicks in for heavy acceleration of over speeds of 40 MPH. Literature on the "Prius" states: "Careless handling of the damaged vehicle may result in electrocution or severe injury".

Both the "Prius" and the "Insight" have high-voltage cables running from battery packs to the front-mounted motors. The cables are shielded, colored orange for identification and linked to circuit breakers to kill the power - - IF THEY ARE CUT ! (It's pouring rain, people have been seriously injured and/or maybe even killed! Will you remember to cut them? If your answer to that is, "Oh yeah, of course", than my response to you is, "I'm sorry to tell you this but, before I bid you 'Goodbye', I gotta tell ya, you're sloshing around in a very tall and huge pile, of the unknown!")

When it comes to the "Prius" the only "Fail-Safe" method, at this point in time, is tripping a kill switch in the trunk. And, in the Toyota, it's a red "Service Plus" that must be pulled with the insulated gloves which you've surely stashed in the trunk of your vehicle. Right? Oh yeah, sure - - right!

DISCLAIMER: This article ~ "ELECTRIC CARS ~ A HUGE RISK is intended for background information only. Its purpose is to help people understand the motor vehicle accident process. Neither Dan Baldyga, Tony Lombardozzi nor AUTOMOTIVE COLLISION REPAIR NETWORK make any guarantee of any kind whatsoever, NOR purport to engage in rendering any professional or legal service, substitute for a lawyer, an insurance adjuster, or claims consultant, or the like. Where such professional help is desired IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY to obtain it.

Dan Baldyga's third and latest book, **AUTO ACCIDENT PERSONAL INJURY INSURANCE CLAIM (How To Evaluate And Settle Your Loss)** can be found on the internet at "<http://www.autoaccidentclaims.com>". This book reveals "How To" successfully handle your motor vehicle accident claim, so you won't be taken advantage of. It also goes into detail regarding the revolutionary BASE (The Baldyga Auto Accident Settlement Evaluation Formula). BASE explains how to determine the value of the "Pain and Suffering" you endured - - because of your personal injury.

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