



A pair of headphones can help you hear weak stations, but if you set the volume too high you can permanently damage your hearing.

many risky activities are not always obvious, an adult must be present whenever anybody is up a ladder or similar activity. Those on the ground will need hard hats, to protect them from dropped tools.

Car batteries

later. It may blow or fall against overhead power lines, resulting in all the exposed metalwork of the shack becoming live. From inside the shack, this risk may not be noticed.

If particularly high antennas are proposed, then the risk of lightning strikes must be considered. Mast manufacturers will be able to offer advice and so will the building planning department of the local authority. There may be a need to obtain planning permission to erect large masts and advice should be sought before starting work.

Antenna erection itself is hazardous. Working at any height carries the risk of a fall, and such activities must always be supervised by a second person who is able to summon help if required. Since

THE MAIN RISK from car batteries is the very high current available. However, charging them causes the battery to give off hydrogen, which can be explosive in a confined space. They should not be charged indoors, indeed using safer sealed batteries should be seriously considered. If tipped over, car batteries may leak. Their fluid contains a highly corrosive acid.

Any spills need adult attention, to be safely mopped up immediately.

Splashes

Splashes on the skin require immersion in running water for several minutes (First Aid books recommend 15 minutes).

Splashes in the eye need immediate and constant irrigation, then medical attention.

Headphones

WEARING HEADPHONES carries two risks.

Hearing

First and foremost, it is very easy to cause hearing damage.

Particularly loud noises can cause damage and pain quite quickly. For example, changing channels after listening to a very quiet station may cause momentary pain or discomfort which, if repeated too often, will lead to damage or hearing loss in the future.

More subtle, but of more concern, is simply listening too loud. It may take a year or more for this to add up to a loss of hearing, but it will be some years too late before this is discovered.

The advice is to keep turning the volume down until it is too quiet, then turn it up a little. Many take the opposite approach of turning it up until it feels almost too loud. That really is the wrong thing to do, although it may take a deliberate effort to avoid the practice.

Electrical

The other risk, when servicing equipment, is that the headphones may complete the electrical circuit and enhance the effects of an electric shock.

Do not wear headphones unless you are seated and operating your equipment normally.

Other hazards

THE SHACK may contain a number of potential hazards, apart from the risk of an electric shock. Indeed, whilst a shock is potentially life threatening, there are many other risks which could be more likely to occur.

Many tools have sharp edges, causing cuts. Soldering irons get hot and can cause quite serious burns.

Wires trailing across the floor are liable to trip people over, or drag equipment onto the floor and expose live parts.

Overhanging wires are liable to snag on people and other items.

Wires, especially mains wires running under carpets, will become frayed over time and the damage may not be noticed until it is too late and a fire or electric shock occurs.



FLNC010



Be careful, they'll hurt you more than you hurt them!