Between 1992 and 2006, 12 workers died in upstate New York while repairing vehicles. Below are descriptions of how some of these workers were killed on the job.

A 43-year-old mechanic was working on a car using a hydraulic hand jack when the jack failed, causing the car to fall on him.

A 55-year-old tire shop manager was working under a truck when it fell off its jack, pinning him under the rear axle.

A 52-year-old maintenance worker was repairing a brake line on an electric cart when it fell off its jack stand, crushing him.

A 28-year-old mechanic was repairing a truck’s rear brakes while parked on a slope when it rolled backwards, crushing him.

HOW CAN THESE ACCIDENTS BE PREVENTED?

- Ensure workers are properly trained and supervised.
- Exercise caution when using jacks to support vehicles or equipment.
  - Use lifts or maintenance pits, instead of portable jacks, when possible.
  - Ensure all vehicles/equipment with a potential to fall are properly jacked, supported with jack stands, and chocked prior to getting under them.
- Follow manufacturer’s instructions for safe lifting and securing.
- Do not place jack stands under portions of vehicles that are not fixed in place.
- Ensure all tools and equipment, including jack stands, have been tested, certified, and rated for the work that is being done.
- Exercise caution when working on vehicles on inclined or uneven surfaces.
  - Always chock the vehicle’s wheels.
- Ensure the vehicle’s transmission is set to the park position and set the vehicle’s parking brake, where possible.
- Ensure the ground is sturdy enough to support the vehicle’s weight, jack or block. Do not conduct work if safe working conditions cannot be met.
- Repair trucks in a shop equipped for large vehicles, if at all possible.