



Take Care With Compressed Air

What is Compressed Air?

Compressed air tools are used in many workplaces and are safe and reliable when safely used, but when misused, it can be hazardous. Compressed air is not "just air"; it is a focused stream of air-driven, at a high velocity, which can cause severe injury or death.

Dangers of Compressed Air

- A misdirected stream of 12 PSI compressed air can "pop" an eyeball from its socket, rupture an eardrum or cause a brain hemorrhage.
- Directed at the mouth, 4 PSI compressed air can rupture the esophagus, lungs and cause internal injuries.
- Also called a fatal embolism, compressed air can cause air bubbles to enter the bloodstream, even through a layer of clothing, or create a surface wound to rip open when blowing dust, dirt off clothing, or body parts.

Safe Acts and Unsafe Acts When Working with Compressed Air

SAFE ACTS



- ✓ Identifying jobs and tasks where compressed-air tools are used and controlling the hazard.
- ✓ Wearing personal protective equipment, such as eye and ear protection.
- ✓ Inspecting all connections to ensure they are tight and will not come loose under pressure. A loose air hose can cause a dangerous bullwhip.
- ✓ Checking that the air hose is in good condition before opening the valve to let air into the hose.
- ✓ Holding the nozzle towards the ground when turning the air on and off. Never hold it towards yourself or someone else.
- ✓ Turning off the valves on both the tool and the airline when the job is done.
- ✓ Keeping air hoses out of walkways to prevent damage to hoses and to avoid slip, trip, and fall hazards.
- ✓ Not using damaged or failing equipment.

UNSAFE ACTS



- ✗ Kinking the hose to stop the airflow; always turn off the air and the control valve.
- ✗ Using damaged compressed air tools.
- ✗ Applying compressed air to your body or that of another person.
- ✗ Using compressed air to clean off clothing, or machinery.
- ✗ Don't use clamps intended for water hoses as connection rings on air hoses and fittings.



**COMPRESSED AIR CAN BE A KILLER.
NEVER USE COMPRESSED AIR
ON YOURSELF OR SOMEONE ELSE!**

