



Safety Share

Compressed Air

Compressed air is commonly used to operate pneumatic tools and equipment. If safe work practices are not followed, using compressed air can cause serious injury or even death.

How can compressed air affect my health?

Even at relatively low pressures, compressed air can be extremely dangerous.

- At four pounds per square inch (PSI), compressed air blown into the mouth can rupture the lungs, stomach or intestines.
- At 12 PSI, it can remove an eye from its socket.

How can you protect yourself?

- Do not use compressed air unless you are properly trained.
- Never use compressed air to clean skin, clothes, machinery or work surfaces.
- Never point compressed air at yourself or another person.
- Before using compressed air, inspect all equipment, hoses and fittings for damage.
- Never exceed the manufacturer's recommended pressure.
- Protect air lines from damage when in use and when in storage.
- Before connecting or disconnecting tools, always shut off the compressed air supply and bleed any remaining air from the air line.
- Always use whip checks (safety cables) on hose connections to prevent hoses from whipping out of control if the connection fails or becomes disconnected.
- Ensure the shut off valve is always in easy reach.
- Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment when working with compressed air, including hearing protection, eye protection and gloves.

