

Toolbox Talk

08. Compressed Air



What?

- Compressed air is under greater than atmospheric pressure, usually generated by a compressor and stored in an air receiver
- It is used to power pneumatic tools such as rivet guns, chipping hammers, drills and grinders used in manufacturing and construction environments
- Compressed air is also used to supply breathing apparatus in confined spaces



Why?

- The most common hazard associated with compressed air is accidental disconnection when a hose or other part fails causing hoses to whip violently under pressure
- Other hazards arise when the safe working pressure is exceeded causing a blow out or rupture to the pipework or over-speeding of the revolving tool or machine

Do



- ✓ Only work on an air compressor if you have been fully trained
- ✓ Keep a firm grip on air tools
- ✓ Ensure compressors are placed on stable surfaces
- ✓ Use in well ventilated area
- ✓ Wear goggles to protect your eyes against flying objects
- ✓ Wear hearing protection when working near or passing a running compressor
- ✓ Only use for its intended purpose, and keep away from sources of ignition
- ✓ Check connections and hoses to ensure they are secure before using air tools
- ✓ Discharge residual air once the system has been shut down

Don't



- ✗ Direct compressed air at anybody
- ✗ Attempt to blow dust from overalls or clothing
- ✗ Work on or repair a pressure system unless it has been locked off and the system discharged
- ✗ Allow pneumatic appliances to be exposed to adverse weather conditions (rain, sun, fog or snow)
- ✗ Leave hoses in areas where people can trip or can be damaged by vehicles
- ✗ Use if any part of the equipment is damaged especially hoses



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