

TOOLBOX 24

COMPRESSED AIR / HYDRAULIC PRESSURE

Dear workers and subcontractors,

Compressed air or hydraulic pressure are on construction sites and provide a valuable source of energy. Compressed air is not "just air". It's a focused stream of air driven at a high velocity. Misuse, however, can result in fires, serious accidents and injuries.



**Connect
safety
WIP-
Check**



Care needs to be taken when working with compressed air:

- Workers must always wear safety glasses and other appropriate personal protective equipment (ear plugs, face shield, dust mask or respirator...)
- Before operating an air hose, inspect the hose to make sure it's in good condition
- Examine all connections are tight and will not come loose under pressure. A loose air hose can make a dangerous 'kick-back', use the safety **WIP-Check** (see picture 1).
- Keep air hoses off the floor where they can be a tripping hazards or become damaged
- Prevent sharp objects from rubbing against air hoses
- Never point an air hose at anyone, including yourself (see picture 2). Compressed air can dislodge particles which can enter your eye or possible skin.
- Avoid damage to cylinder valves and fittings.
- Don't use air pipes as carrying aids, as a foot or hand hold.
- Open valves slowly and close sufficiently to cut off air supply, don't use excessive force
- If you have to work on a pipe, first release pressure before starting to grind, weld... Check it YOURSELF, to make sure pressure is of the pipe.

For commissioning activities we advice you:

- Direct communication between mechanical and process people by walkie-talkie
- Agree which language will be spoken so workers understand correctly the instructions they get from their colleagues
- Make sure that electrical switches, hydraulics, pneumatics are padlocked
- Check if metal structure of the building and machinery must be grounded
- Emergency stop switches must be tested regularly
- Workers, electricians are trained and know the operating procedure of the line
- Read your method statements and risk analysis of the job
- Potential safety hazards must be reported immediately to your supervisor
- If there is any doubt, please talk to your supervisor before starting the job

Compressed air is a valuable tools, but can be lethal if not used correctly

Safe regards,

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BonBini

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