



KNOW HOW TO CORRECTLY USE PNEUMATIC TOOLS AND COMPRESSED AIR



Pneumatic tools are used daily in our dredging operations. They are powered by compressed air and include needle scalers for removing rust and paint, air grinders, impact wrenches, air ratchets, air jacks, chippers and spray guns. There are several dangers encountered in the use of pneumatic tools. The following general practices should be followed when using pneumatic powered tools and compressed air:

PNEUMATIC POWERED TOOLS

- All tools must be inspected to make sure they are working properly prior to operation.
- **EYE PROTECTION IS REQUIRED WHEN WORKING WITH PNEUMATIC TOOLS.** Impact resistant face protection is to be worn over safety glasses when grinding, sanding, or using any tool that can cause dust or flying particles to enter the eye.
- Ear protection is required when working with noisy tools such as an impact wrench.
- The hose is to be checked to ensure that it is properly connected.
- Tools must be secured to the hose by some positive means to prevent the tool from becoming accidentally disconnected. The use of a “Whip-Check” or cotter pin is recommended.



PNEUMATIC TOOLS AND COMPRESSED AIR (continued)

- Safety clips or retainers must be installed and maintained on pneumatic impact tools to prevent attachments from being accidentally expelled.
- The use of hoses for hoisting or lowering tools is not permitted.
- All air hoses exceeding ½-inch inside diameter must have a safety device at the source of supply to reduce pressure in case of hose failure.
- Compressed air guns should never be pointed at anyone. The user should never “dead end” the tool against himself or anyone else.
- After the tool is connected, check the hose and all connections for leaks or damage before using the tool.
- Loose fitting clothing or jewelry of any type must not be worn when operating pneumatic tools.
- Air tool operators should be trained and experienced in the safe use of pneumatic equipment.

COMPRESSED AIR

- Never use compressed air to clean off your clothing or body.
- Never point compressed air at yourself or another person. **DO NOT ENGAGE IN HORSEPLAY WITH COMPRESSED AIR.**
- Turn off the air pressure when hoses are not in use and when changing tools.
- Do not kink the hose to stop the flow of air. This could rupture the hose.
- Check that all connections are tight before turning on air pressure.
- Check hoses regularly for cuts, bulges, and abrasions.
- Replace all worn hoses and connections.
- Protect the air hose from damage. Move it out of the way so that so that it is not run over.
- Be sure to use the proper size air hose and fittings to keep air pressure at a maximum pressure recommended by the manufacturer. This is typically 90 psi at the tool.
- Use lockout and tagout procedures when servicing air compressor systems and when removing machine guards. Bleed residual air out of system before servicing or repair operations.
- Do not paint relief valves
- Keep all spectators away from the work area.

Any defective or malfunctioning air tool or compressor must immediately be tagged “out of service” and sent in for repairs.



PNEUMATIC TOOLS AND COMPRESSED AIR (continued)



Note the use of a hose-to-hose whip check and safety clip at the crow's foot connectors. These devices will protect workers from being struck by broken air hoses.



An air impact wrench with tool to hose whip check installed.



Use lockout and tagout procedures when servicing air compressor systems. Bleed all air out of the system before performing service on maintenance. Do not paint pressure relief valves.

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