

Talk 11: Working with Compressed Air



Why This Matters

Compressed air stores enough energy to turn fittings into projectiles. Unsafe cleaning practices can also inject air into the bloodstream, which is fatal.

Hoses & Fittings

- ✓ Inspect hoses daily for cuts, blisters, or damaged couplings
- ✓ Fit whip-checks or restraint cables on high-pressure lines
- ✓ Use only manufacturer-approved clamps and never mix-match fittings

Operating Rules

- ✓ Never use compressed air to clean clothing or skin
- ✓ Bleed hoses before disconnecting; stand to the side of couplings
- ✓ Secure hoses off the ground where vehicles operate
- ✓ Set regulators to the lowest pressure that still does the job

Safe Shutdown Steps

1. Close the supply valve slowly
2. Vent downstream pressure using the tool or bleed valve
3. Confirm gauges read zero before uncoupling
4. Coil and hang hoses—never leave them on the floor

PPE & Housekeeping

- ✓ Wear eye protection, gloves, and hearing protection as required
- ✓ Keep nozzles, blow guns, and air tools clean and stored securely
- ✓ Report air leaks—they waste energy and can cause hose whip

Discussion Points

- ✓ Where are the isolation valves for the compressed air manifolds?
- ✓ Do we have enough whip-checks or hose restraints?
- ✓ Any lines running across vehicle routes that we should reroute?