COMPRESSED AIR TOOLS (PNEUMATIC) SAFE WORK PRACTICES

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Compressed air tools are powered by compressed air, for example stapling guns, air nailers, drivers and jack hammers. These tools discharge high-velocity projectiles used in securing, fastening, and erecting, and they are often used in roofing, framing, and finishing. Their use requires caution because they can be accidentally discharged.

Drivers with rapidly spinning chucks are no less of danger to the worker. Follow these safe work practices when using tools powered by compressed air and with all these tools wear safety eyewear:

- Allow only competent, trained, experienced workers to use pneumatic nailing, stapling and drivers tools according to OH&S Regulation Def. 1-g
- Inspect the pneumatic tool before connecting it to the air supply
- Follow manufacturer's instructions and never exceed the manufacturer-specified air pressure for tools, hoses, and fittings and maintain the equipment properly according to the manufacturer's requirements
- Use only quick-disconnect pressure-release type hose connectors with a safety chain/cable on any hose over 1/2 inch". Use the correct air supply hose for the tool/equipment being used
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE), such as eye protection and a face shield
- Ensure workers in the area are made aware of, or have restricted access to, the hazard area where compressed air is being used.
- *Do not* point the tool towards yourself or others, regardless of whether it is empty or not
- Check hoses on a regular basis for cuts, bulges, or other damage. Check any hose for cuts or bulges, and replace any hose found to be defective.
- Make sure that a proper pressure regulator and relief device is in the system to ensure that correct pressure is maintained
- Ensure screws and caps on the tool are securely tightened
- *Do not* use compressed air to blow debris or dirt from clothing
- Hold pneumatic tools used for nailing and stapling against the work surface before pulling the trigger
- *Do not* disengage or override safety features
- *Do not* secure operating triggers in the "on" position under any circumstances

- Disconnect the air supply before making adjustments or repairs to the tool Before disconnecting the hose or changing tools connected to the hose, ensure that the air pressure is off and the line pressure is relieved
- *Do not* lay hoses across walkways
- *Do not* hold the material being fastened (whenever possible). Secure by other means.
- *CAUTION: Air coming from hoses is at extreme pressure and can if directed at a skin surface penetrate and form an air bubble in the bloodstream. Immediate medical attention is required. Accidents of this type have proven fatal.*

Related SWP & HAA:

Eye injuries HAA

Defective Tools SWP & HAA