



## Compressed Air

Pollution is not the only danger that involves air. We'll talk about one of these other dangers today – the use of compressed air. Compressed air is not a plaything and must be used in a safe manner. So, before grabbing an air hose and going into action, there are a number of safety guidelines which should be followed.

First, be sure that it's an air line you have, not gas or water. Take time to check this every time you use compressed air.

Next, check hose conditions. Hoses can become weak where they bend, attach to a shut off valve or nozzle, and wherever it has been kinked. Weak points can swell like a balloon and burst. Particles can fly and the hose can thrash about dangerously.

### Follow these safety precautions:

- Keep hoses off the floor to prevent trip hazards and damage caused by trucks, doors, and tools.
- Prevent sharp objects from rubbing the hose, including burred fittings.
- Always coil the hose, without kinks, and hang over a broad support, not a hook, nail, or angle iron.

### Use the lowest pressure possible to do the job. Here's why:

- Air pressure of 40 lbs. can drive chips and scale into your eyes and face like shrapnel. At 40 lbs., it can even blow an eye from the socket or rupture an eardrum.
- Air pressure may penetrate the skin and cause an internal hemorrhage and intense pain. It may also burst internal organs, bringing slow and agonizing death.
- The nozzle of an air hose is a deadly weapon. Don't point it at anyone, not even yourself. Use a vacuum or brush to clean up dust.

Standard safe procedures are set up for trained employees using equipment with known safety factors and observing approved safe work practices. Remove dust or particles from jigs, fixtures, or deep holes in parts by using low pressure, 30 lbs. or less, and the right nozzle. Wear cup-type goggles and set up shields to protect passersby.

Compressed air must be treated with respect. It is a valuable tool, but it must be used intelligently and in a safe manner.

Products and services are provided by one or more insurance company subsidiaries of W. R. Berkley Corporation. Not all products and services are available in every jurisdiction. Certain coverages may be provided through surplus lines insurance company subsidiaries of W. R. Berkley Corporation through licensed surplus lines brokers. Surplus lines insurers do not generally participate in state guaranty funds and insureds are therefore not protected by such funds. Berkley Life Sciences conducts business in California as Berkley LS Insurance Solutions, LLC, a licensed surplus lines broker (License Number 0H44165).

This material is provided to you for general informational purposes only. Coverage afforded under any insurance policy issued is subject to the individual terms and conditions of that policy as issued. Claims scenarios are hypothetical in nature and for illustrative purposes.

Maintaining safe operations and a safe facility in accordance with all laws is your responsibility. We make no representation or warranty, express or implied, that our activities or advice will place you in compliance with the law; that your premises or operations are safe; or that the information provided is complete, free from errors or timely. We are not liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages resulting from the use or misuse of this information. You are not entitled to rely upon this information or any loss control activities provided by us and you may not delegate any of your legal responsibilities to us. All loss control activities are conducted solely for the purpose of, and in accordance with, our underwriting activities.