COMPRESSED AIR IS NO JOKE!

Compressed air is a necessary tool in our everyday work; however, we must realize that it can be dangerous, even to the point of death.

Experience has shown that a blast of air at 40 pound per square inch can rupture an eardrum at a distance of four inches. Much worse, it can cause a brain hemorrhage and be fatal.

It can be very dangerous to use compressed air to blow dust or dirt from your body or clothing. As little as 12 psi can "pop" an eyeball from its socket. Air can enter the naval, even through a layer of clothing, and inflate and rupture the intestines. Compressed air, less than 80 pounds pressure, has struck a small wound on a person's hand and blown the arm as round as a grapefruit and caused shooting pains from the fingers to the shoulder. It can cause bubbles of air to enter the bloodstream.

There is absolutely no place for horseplay in using compressed air equipment. A reliable authority advises us that it has been estimated that as little as four pounds of pressure can rupture the bowel. Directed at the mouth, it can rupture the lungs and the intestines.

Compressed air tools can be safe and reliable pieces of equipment. But the above examples clearly demonstrate that compressed air can be a lethal weapon if used improperly.

The fact that compressed air is "only air" sometimes leads people to think it's harmless. It is just air but air driven at a high velocity. A hurricane or a tornado is also "only air" but they can be deadly.

When used to operate equipment, compressed air can be our friend, a very valuable work-saving device. But when improperly or carelessly used, it can be very dangerous.

Always wear prescribed personal protective equipment. Continuously check the condition of tools and air hose to make sure that they do not show evidence of damage or failure, and that connections and couplings are tight. A loose air hose under 80 pounds of pressure makes a pretty effective bullwhip.

We caution you to never look into, or point toward any part of the body, yours or others, the business end of any compressed air apparatus. This is as foolish as looking down the barrel of a gun.