

# SAFE WORK PRACTICES AIR POWERED TOOLS

*\*This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

Air-powered tools include nailing and stapling guns, grinders, drills, jack hammers, chipping hammers, riveting hammers and wrenches.

## AIR HOSES

- AVOID tripping hazards created by hoses laid across walkways or curled underfoot.
- ENSURE hose connections fit properly and are equipped with mechanical means of insuring connection (chain or wire).
- INSTALL quick disconnects of a pressure release type rather than disengagement type. Attach the male end of connector to the tool not the hose.
- TURN off air pressure to hose when not in use or when changing power tools.
- CHECK hoses regularly for cuts, bulges and abrasions. Replace if defective.
- BLOW OUT air line before connecting tool, hold hose firmly and blow away from yourself and others.
- CHOOSE air-supply hoses that have a minimum working pressure rating of 1035 kPa (150 psig) or 150% of the maximum pressure produced in the system, whichever is higher.

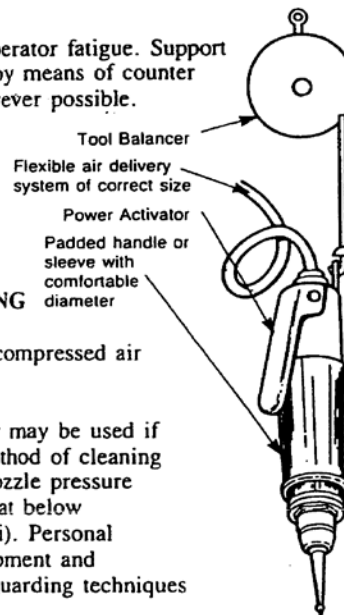


- DO NOT USE compressed air to blow debris or to clean dirt from your clothes, or those of others.

- DO NOT OPERATE at pressure above manufacturer's rating.

## OPERATION

- WEAR safety glasses or face shield and, where necessary, safety shoes and hearing protection.
- POST warning signs and shields in areas where tools are used and others may be exposed to flying chips, dust, and excessive noise.
- EXERCISE care to prevent hands, feet, or body from injury in case the machine slips or the tool breaks.
- REDUCE operator fatigue. Support heavy tools by means of counter balance wherever possible.



## AIR CLEANING

Cleaning with compressed air is dangerous.

Compressed air may be used if no alternate method of cleaning is available. Nozzle pressure MUST remain at below 207 kPa (30 psi). Personal protective equipment and effective chip guarding techniques must be used.

Two acceptable methods of meeting the "below 30 psi" requirement are illustrated below.

