

DANGERS of COMPRESSED AIR in DEALERSHIP SERVICE AREAS

Compressed air:

RULE 8632(1) states that:

- 1) Air pressure at the discharge end of a portable air blow gun shall be less than 30 psi gauge when dead- ended.
- 2) Where an air blow gun is used to remove chips and dust, a chip guard, such as fixed removable shield, shall be provided to protect employees in adjacent areas.
- 3) An air blow gun shall not be used for cleaning clothes while being worn, or blown at any part of the body.
- 4) Alternate methods of cleaning surfaces should be sought. Compressed air may be used if no alternate method of cleaning is acceptable. Compressed air should never be used to blow debris from a person. The downstream pressure of compressed air must remain at a pressure level below 30 psi whenever the nozzle is dead-ended and then only when effective chip-guarding and personal protective equipment is used.

Air hoses and pneumatic tools found in your service & body shops pose potential injury to the technician when they are improperly use or maintained. Each day technicians should inspect all of their pneumatic tools and the air lines in their bays/work stations for any damage.

Any lines found to have any damage (i.e.; bulges, hissing couplings) should be repaired or replaced. If the coupling can not be repaired with a hose clamp or if it can not be properly re-crimped then it must be replaced. Broken couplings unleash dangerous whipping lines.

One way to ensure that air lines stay safe is proper care. Lines rubbing on rough edges, sharp bends and driving over the lines in your work bays create potential hazards which can result in a serious injury.

Proper use is a must! A single blast of air discharged from a dead-ended blow gun can destroy an eye, burst an ear drum and send particles flying at jet speeds. A dead-ended blow gun **MUST** not exceed 30psi. Technicians should never point the hose at yourself or a fellow employee. They can not use compressed air to clean themselves or anyone else. They must use a brush. When cleaning their work bay they should use a broom/brush if that is not an option then fellow employees near the area must be protected by a fixed or removable shield. Lastly, employees using compressed air/pneumatic tools **MUST** always wear personal protective equipment.