

Compressed Air Hazards and Potential Injuries



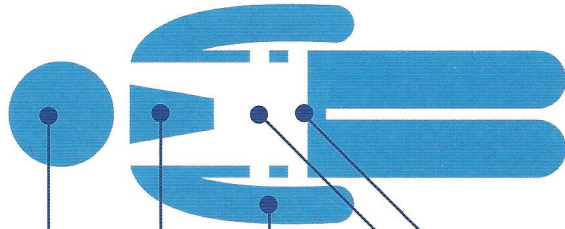
Air at 1 bar can 'pop' an eyeball from its socket! At 10cm, 3 bar can rupture an eardrum, cause brain haemorrhage or possible death

0.25 bar of air can rupture the lungs and intestine

Less than 6 bar of air striking a small wound on the hand can enter the bloodstream and inflate the arm

Air can enter the navel through clothing, inflating and rupturing the intestines

0.25 bar of air can rupture a bowel



Working Safely With Compressed Air



Do...

- **Take care**, compressed air injected into the skin at any pressure can kill
- **Wear personal protective equipment** where required, e.g. glasses, ear defenders
- **Check hoses on air tools** for cracks or loose connections
- **Make sure you have proper training** on all pneumatic equipment you use
- **Report any hazards** or unsafe practices
- **Remember** that everyone, including you, has a responsibility for safety

Don't...

- **Point a compressed air jet** at any part of anyone's body
- **Lock the end of a blow gun** even if it has a cut-out safety mechanism
- **Use compressed air for general cleaning purposes** such as work benches or clothes
- **Interfere or tamper** with any safety devices fitted to equipment
- **Use pneumatic equipment** unless you have been trained
- **Use blow guns** without personal protective equipment even at 2 bar

British Compressed Air Society Limited
33-34 Devonshire Street, London W1G 6PY
Tel: 020 7935 2464 Fax: 020 7935 3077
Email: enquiries@bcas.org.uk