

Introduction

Compressed air when used for cleaning machinery and bench tops can result in injury from the air jet, as well as from the particles made air borne.

Hazards

- Particles that are dislodged by compressed air can cause eye injury or abrasions on the skin.
- Compressed air can enter the blood stream through a break in the skin. This can cause a condition known as embolism where the blood vessel is blocked by an air bubble. This can cause coma or paralysis depending upon its size, duration and location of the block.
- Compressed air forces the dirt and dust particles into the air creating a respiratory hazard.



Precautions

- Use wet cleaning methods or vacuum cleaners wherever possible.
- Never use compressed air to clean dust from clothes or skin.
- Never direct compressed air towards others.
- The nozzle pressure must be maintained below 10 psi.
- Use personal protective equipment particularly eye protection, for protection from flying particles.