



# Safety Alert

## **Tyre Serviceman Suffers High Pressure Air Blast into Face**

### **Incident:**

A tyre serviceman was adjusting the inflation pressure of an OTR truck tyre using a large bore inflation tool. As he was trying to check the pressure using a handheld gauge, the large bore inflation tool dislodged from the valve stem and caused the tyre serviceman to be hit in his face by the high pressure air escaping from the valve assembly.

The person involved was wearing safety glasses, hearing protection and a safety hat. While the hearing protection and safety hat were blown off the persons head by the air blast, the safety glasses appeared to remain on his face saving him from serious eye injury.

### **Actions:**

1. Pressure adjustment - inflation or deflation must only be carried out by trained and competent personnel in accordance with the sites Safe Work Procedure (SWP).
2. PPE including safety glasses or goggles, hearing and head protection are mandatory during this task.
3. Any tooling used must be 'fit for purpose' and be checked prior to use for any defects such as worn threads or other damage. Worn or damaged tools must be replaced.
4. Before attaching the inflation tool to the valve stem, ensure that both the valve stem and the inside of the tool is free of dirt and the thread is serviceable so that the tool can be fully screwed on and become secured to the valve stem.
5. Throughout the process, never stand directly in front of the valve or tool to avoid being hit by high pressure air, grit or the tooling itself should the tool or valve assembly fail.
6. Before removing an inflation tool, ensure that the tyre is either completely deflated (check with pressure gauge) or the valve core housing has been fully inserted and seated.

Always check to ensure each and every step of the SWP is followed as short cuts and or partial completion can result in unexpected loss of pressurised air which is highly hazardous.

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