



Safety Alert

Change-Out of Valve Componentry

Incident: A tyre serviceman received minor abrasions to his hand when he was attempting to change out the damaged valve core housing from a fully inflated tyre assembly.

While the actual injury was minor, there was the real potential of air/particle injection into his hand, or other injury to his face.

The root cause was attributed to the tyre not being deflated with a super large bore inflator tool before removal/replacement of the valve component.

Actions: The following actions are required to prevent a recurrence of this type of incident.

1. This task may only be carried out by trained and competent personnel in accordance with the sites Safe Work Procedure (SWP).
2. PPE including safety glasses/goggles, gloves, hearing and head protection are mandatory during this task.
3. Set up the vehicle as if performing a normal tyre change as per site/vehicle SWP including placement of wheel chocks, isolation, hosing down and full assembly inspection before proceeding.
4. Where valve assemblies are to be changed out on front or single tyre positions, the vehicle is to be jacked and supported as per site and vehicle SWP.
5. This is to be followed by full deflation of the assembly using a super large bore inflator (where possible) as per site/vehicle SWP.
6. Where valve assemblies are to be changed out on rear (dual) positions which require removal of one/both tyre/rim assemblies, the vehicle is to be jacked and supported as per site and vehicle SWP, and both assemblies are to be deflated as per site/vehicle SWP.
7. Once fully deflated the valve assembly may be removed and replaced. Check for the cause of the damaged valve assembly.

Note: All required PPE including gloves must be worn to minimise potential hand injuries. 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.

8. Re-inflation of the assembly can then be carried out as per site/vehicle SWP.
9. During re-inflation, all necessary integrity checks must be completed to ensure that the tyre and rim components are mating/seating as required as per site/vehicle SWP.

Adoption of the steps above will limit the exposure and risk to all tyre service personnel.

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