Compressed Air Safety Guidelines

- Be sure you are working with an air line, not a gas or water line. Fittings and valves look different, but sometimes hose lines cross.
- Check to be sure the air hose is in good condition. An air hose is designed to withstand pressure, but it becomes weakened at the places where it is bent, where it is attached to the shut-off valve and to the nozzle, and wherever it has been kinked. Such weak points may swell like a balloon and burst, throwing pieces of hose in every direction. This may also cause the hose to thrash about dangerously.
- Follow these precautions:
  - ➢ Keep the air hose off the floor, where it is a trip hazard and subject to damage by trucks, doors, and dropped tools.
  - ➢ Prevent sharp objects — even hose fittings that have been burred —from rubbing against the hose.
  - ➢ Always coil the hose (without kinks) and hang it over a broad support — not over a hook, nail, or angle iron — when not in use.
- Always use the lowest pressure that will do the job!
  - ➢ Air pressure in excess of 30 lbs. can drive chips, as well as scale from inside the piping, into your face and eyes with the force of shrapnel. Such air-driven missiles still do damage when they bounce off a surface, spinning much like a high-speed cutting head.
  - ➢ Air pressure against the skin may penetrate deeply to cause internal hemorrhage and intense pain.
  - ➢ Air that enters a body opening can burst internal organs and cause slow, agonizing death.
  - ➢ Air in excess of 30 lbs. can blow an eye from its socket or rupture an eardrum.

Compressed Air Safety Guidelines *(continued)*

- Do not point the nozzle of an air hose at anyone — it can be a deadly weapon!
- Establish standard safety procedures for *trained* employees to use the equipment under certain circumstances, such as:
  - ➢ To remove dust or particles from jigs, fixtures, or deep holes in parts. Use low pressure, 30 lbs. or less, and the right nozzle. Wear cup-type goggles and set up shields to protect passers-by and others in the area.
  - ➢ To transfer liquids from properly rated pressure vessels. Check air pressure, attach hose connection tightly, remain at control valve to shut off in an emergency, and make sure bleed-off valve and pressure relief valve work. Never use compressed air to transfer flammable liquids!

MAH3001 1-98 rev. 11-02