

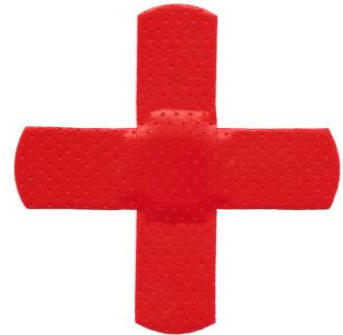
ALERT: L&I inspections are asking businesses to show proof of employee COVID training. Remember, you can use the free SAFEME COVID Training module to help you fulfil this requirement.

February 2022

Hello RETRO Members;

February is National Heart Month, sponsored by [The American Heart Association](#), and we are focused on educating Americans on how to battle cardiovascular disease by living heart-healthy lives. This focus also ties in with First Aid/CPR training.

First Aid/CPR-AED. [L&I requires](#) first aid certified personnel to be on hand when employees are present. Typically, supervisors and higher are card holders. If you have not taken this course recently, you may not be aware of the recent changes or how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which is now part of the training. Even if your store doesn't yet have an AED on location, it's essential to understand how to operate one. Another change to the CPR method is the administration of chest compressions alone without stopping to give rescue breaths. Are your first aid cardholders current? If not, many online services can help you become certified.



Slips-Trips-Falls. Slips, trips, and falls are very common in workplace accidents. Employees, employers, and customers are put at risk for serious injury when slip, trip, and fall hazards go unnoticed in parking lots, walkways, stairwells, and other work locations. Fortunately, with proper training, housekeeping techniques, and encouraging a safety culture in the workplace, you can spot, report, and correct these hazards before someone gets hurt.



You will find additional information on this topic at the [RS Safety Library](#), with several items to pick from as part of your safety meeting for this month. A [printable sign is available here](#). For additional safety tips, check [here](#). The **SAFEME** app has a module on [Slips Trip and Falls](#) and makes a great refresher course or safety meeting topic.

Air Gun Safety. An air gun is a simple tool that can have severe consequences if not used or equipped correctly. Workplace injuries can occur because of the misuse of compressed air too. It may be amusing to direct a jet of air at a coworker, but doing so can result in severe internal injury. It is crucial to understand [air gun regulations](#) when it comes to using compressed air safely in the workplace.



Hazards. Filings, chips, shavings, particles of metal, and other materials can become projectiles when compressed air is used for cleaning purposes.

Effective chip guarding involves any method or equipment that can prevent a chip or particle (of any size) from being blown into the eyes or unbroken skin of the operator or coworkers. Effective chip guarding may be separate from the air nozzle, as is the case when using screens or barriers. The use of protective cone air nozzles is generally acceptable for the protection of the operator. However, barriers, baffles, or screens may be required to protect other workers near the operator if they are exposed to flying chips or particles. Always check your local or state regulations as they may differ from the federal regulation discussed in this document.

Regulation. Due to the potentially serious injuries that can be caused by compressed air, it must not be used for cleaning purposes except when reduced to less than 30 psi, and then only with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment is in place.

The phrase “reduce to less than 30 psi” means that the nozzle pressure or opening of a gun, pipe, cleaning lance, or other tool used for cleaning purposes will remain at a pressure level *below* 30 psi in the event the tool is *dead-ended*, which means the tip of an air gun is blocked. Prevention can be achieved by relief ports that discharge sufficient air to reduce the pressure at the nozzle to less than 30 psi. Employees should not use compressed air to clean themselves or their clothing.

Some commonly asked questions

Q: Can compressed air greater than 30 psi be used for industrial purposes?

A: Yes. Most pneumatic tools, including air guns, require 80-120 psi to operate effectively. However, they must have a relief device or air port within the system that drops the pressure to under 30 psi if the air system becomes dead-ended.

Q: If I reduce the air pressure to less than 30 psi, can I allow my employees to clean their clothing or themselves with the air gun?

A: No. Pressures as low as 5-10 psi have been known to cause serious injury. Under no circumstances should employees use compressed air to clean off clothing or any part of their body.

Please review your service tech's tool kits to ensure they are using proper blow-off gun attachments with dead-ended safety devices.

Thinking safety for you,

Rick Means

Director of Safety and Education
618 Quince St SE Olympia, WA 98501
rmeans@waretailservices.com
360-943-9198 ext. 118