

REMOVING AIR CONDITIONING PARTS IN VEHICLES

Removing air conditioning parts in vehicles can expose a worker to health and safety hazards, as well as environmental concerns.



Hazard: Compressed Gas

Details

- Air conditioning systems are always under high pressure.

Threat

- Eye irritations or injury
- Painful or fatal injuries if the gas penetrates the skin

Safe Work Guidelines

- Discharge the system using the procedures and equipment recommended by the manufacturer
- Wear proper personal protective equipment, including eye protection that is CSA-approved for the job, and leather gloves
- **Do not** loosen any hose or line fitting or remove any component until the system has been discharged
- Always evacuate, recharge, and retest repaired systems
- Always replace old o-rings with new ones

Hazard: Freon

Details

- Freon is a gas that produces very low temperatures and is hazardous to the environment.

Threat

- Eye injuries
- Burns

Safe Work Guidelines

- Use special precautions and proper procedures according to recycling regulations for recovering and recycling Freon
- Wear goggles and leather gloves
- Follow instructions on the MSDS sheet, if applicable, for safe handling procedures
- Be aware that R12 and R134 components and refrigerants and oils are not compatible; therefore, **do not** attempt to substitute one for another

Hazard: Noise

Details

- Noisy tools, such as impact tools, can be louder than 85dB.

Threat

- Hearing damage
- Deafness

Safe Work Guidelines

- Ensure that proper controls are in place to reduce the exposure to loud noise from impact tools (such as reducing amount of time workers are exposed, placing task in area with fewer employees, etc.)
- Wear appropriate hearing protection and make sure that other workers near you are wearing hearing
- Follow all work procedures for hearing damage control that are in place; report any concerns of loud noise to your supervisor

Hazard: Improper Use of Tools

Details

- Using the wrong tool for the job, or using the correct one improperly.

Threat

- Hand and foot injuries
- Back injuries
- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Scrapes, cuts, bruising

Safe Work Guidelines

- Use the right tool for the job and read directions on its proper use and care; ask your supervisor if you are unsure
- Do not use hammers with broken or cracked handles, chisels or punches with mushroom heads, or bent or broken wrenches – these damaged tools can break and seriously injure you
- Do not use extreme force in pulling, etc. when the vehicle is on the jack
- Use a longer wrench or breaker bar and, if necessary, penetrating solvent to loosen a tight bolt or nut; do not strain your muscles – if solvents are used, follow safe working practices/procedures
- Use impact sockets on an impact tool; do not use standard sockets which can shatter
- Do not use loose-fitting wrenches or other tools that can slip
- Use a box-end or socket wrench, which is less likely to slip
- Do not use an adjustable wrench unless absolutely necessary
- Pull the wrench or ratchet towards you; if you must push, use an open hand to avoid scraping your knuckles or otherwise injuring your hand if the wrench slips – pulling also gives you better control over the tool
- Do not carry tools, especially pointed tools, in your pocket – if you slip or fall, you could be injured

© Workplace Safety and Prevention Services 2011.

Workplace Safety and Prevention Services (WSPS) grants permission to approved end users to reproduce this document in whole or in part, provided its intended use is for non-commercial, educational purposes and that full acknowledgement is given to the WSPS. Approved end users are firms registered with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. WSPS reserves the right to extend this permission to other stakeholders and interested parties by express written permission upon application. WSPS extends no warranty to materials amended or altered by the end user. Under no circumstances is this document, or any portion thereof, to be duplicated for purposes of sale or for external reproduction or distribution.

Revised: February 2011