



**SAFE WORK GUIDELINES**

# Removing Air Conditioner Parts

Removing air conditioning parts involves health and safety hazards as well as environmental concerns.

**HAZARD**

**SAFE WORK GUIDELINES**

► **Compressed Gas**

**Details**

Air conditioning systems are always under high pressure.

**Threat**

Eye irritation or injury  
Painful or fatal injuries if the gas penetrates the skin

- 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

► **Freon**

**Details**

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

**Threat**

Eye injuries and burns  
Global warming

- Use special precautions and proper procedures according to recycling regulations for recovering and recycling Freon
- Wear goggles and leather gloves
- Be aware that R12 and R134 components and refrigerants and oils are not compatible; therefore, **do not** attempt to substitute one for another

► **Noise**

**Details**

Noisy tools such as impact tools can be louder than 90 dB.

**Threat**

Hearing damage, deafness

- Wear appropriate hearing protection and make sure that other workers near you are wearing hearing protection

## ► 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

- 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
- 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 better control over the tool
- **Do not** carry tools, especially pointed tools, in your pocket—if you slip or fall, they can pierce your leg or kidney