



Air-Impact Wrench Safety

West Virginia University
Environmental Health and Safety



Pre-Use Activities

- Review and understand information provided in the air-impact wrench operator's manual, specifically the safety procedures.
- Inspect the air-impact wrench for damage, disrepair, or missing parts, including assessing the condition of the air hose and associated fittings.
- Assure the air hose and fittings are secured tightly.
- Notify supervisor and remove the wrench from service by attaching a red tag that states "OUT OF SERVICE" if the air-impact wrench fails the pre-use inspection. Complete red tag with appropriate information.

Operating Precautions

- Wear safety glasses with side protectors.
- Never wear a tie, loose clothing, or jewelry (watch, rings, etc.) when using an air-impact wrench.
- Tie long hair back or secure under a cap.
- Wear hearing protection when using this tool; an air-impact wrench creates a noise exposure of about 103 dB.
- Use clean, dry air at the manufacturer's recommended pressure (about 90 psi) to power the air-impact wrench.
- Use **impact wrench sockets** that are **specifically designed** for this type of tool.
- Stop using the air-impact wrench if you experience tingling, numbing, or painful sensations in the hands, fingers, or arms and seek medical attention if the sensations persist. Air-impact wrenches vibrate while being used.
- Use a torque wrench to apply the proper torque to bolts and nuts. **Do not** over torque bolts and nuts with an air-impact wrench.
- Carry an air-impact wrench by the handle or body; never carry an air impact wrench by the air hose.
- Disconnect the air hose before installing or adjusting impact wrench sockets or performing tool maintenance.

