

Information Bulletin**10 Tips For Using Tire Inflation Safety Cages**

The job of changing commercial tires with tubeless and multi-piece rims can be a dangerous occupation. Tires may explode during inflation, releasing instant energy and possibly causing injury to the worker or a bystander. Only trained technicians using the proper tools and equipment should be performing this task. One such piece of safety equipment is the tire inflation safety cage which is designed to protect the worker from severe injury. Today's tire inflation safety cages are ruggedly built and designed to meet OSHA's rigorous requirements for medium truck, over-the-road (OTR), tractor and super wide tires. Here are some important safety tips for using the cages properly:

1. Never allow any part of your body inside an inflation cage during the inflation procedure.
2. Actual tire inflation must be controlled from a distance of 10 feet away using an extension hose and a clip-on chuck.
3. Do not alter your tire inflation cage in any way.
4. Cages must be freestanding and at least three feet from other objects. Permanently mounting an inflation cage to the floor or near a wall prohibits deformation of the bottom plate and prevents equal dissipation of energy released in the event of a tire explosion.
5. Operators should always wear safety goggles and be certain that they and anyone in the area is not in the trajectory path.
6. Never inflate tires on the floor or near any other solid surface that is within three feet of the tire's sidewall.

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7. After tire inflation, the tire and rim/wheel components must be carefully inspected while still in the tire inflation cage to ensure they are properly seated and locked.
8. If adjustments are required, the tire must be completely deflated by removing its valve core while the tire is still in the inflation cage.
9. Do not attempt to correct the seating of side flanges or lock rings by hammering or forcing the components when the tire is inflated.
10. Review safety procedures regularly.

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Note

This document is not intended to be legal advice. It does not identify all the issues surrounding the particular topic. You are encouraged to review your policies and procedures with an expert or an attorney who is knowledgeable about the topic.