Servicing rim wheels can be very dangerous. Inflated tires may explode and can cause serious injury or death if a worker is struck by a piece of the rim wheel. Employers must ensure that workers are trained and perform the procedures required to service rim wheels, including OSHA standards for tube-free wheels.

The required tasks to be performed when servicing rim wheels include the following:

**Inflate**

- Inspect components for corrosion/rust/defects; clean or replace defective components as needed;
- While in restraining device, inflate tire, with valve core removed, to 20 psi;
- Continue to inflate to seat beads, never exceeding 40 psi;
- Identify and stand clear of trajectory path;
- Inflate tire (with valve core still removed) to recommended pressure;
- Inspect assembly carefully, release the pressure to install valve core and re-inflate to recommended pressure; and
- Visually inspect the rim wheel assembly for distortions, fluctuations or other defects.
Deflate

• Completely deflate tire assemblies (installations) before demounting; and
• Remove valve core from stem and insert wire to ensure complete deflation.

Other Safe Practices

• Use the appropriate tools; and
• Always use matching components.

Rubber mallet setting side ring in multi-piece rim.

Requirements for servicing multi-piece and single-piece rim wheels can be found in §CFR 1910.177. OSHA charts and/or service manuals are required to posted in the service area. In 2011, OSHA published updated Tire Charts available at: http://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.athruz?pType=Industry&pID=319

If you have questions, ask your immediate supervisor.

For more information:

OSHA® Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)