Air bags are used to lift and displace objects that cannot easily be lifted with other basic lifting equipment. There are three basic types of bags:

**High-pressure:**
Tough neoprene rubber exterior reinforced with steel wire or Kevlar aramid fibers.
Inflation pressure about 135 psi.
Depending on the size of the bag, they can inflate to a height of about 20 inches.
The largest bag can lift approximately 75 tons. Note: The air bag’s lifting capacity decreases as the height of the lift increases.

**Medium and low pressure:**
Larger than high-pressure bags and are used to lift or stabilize large vehicles or objects. They have a much greater lifting distance than high-pressure bags.
Medium-pressure bags operate at 12 to 15 psi.
Low-pressure bags operate at 7 to 10 psi.

Discuss air bags used in the rescue jurisdiction and the necessary safety rules that must always apply.

a) Plan the lifting operation. All parts of the air bag system should be in good working order with all safety seals in place. There should be an adequate air supply and sufficient cribbing available for the operation.

b) Be completely familiar with equipment.

c) Follow manufacturer’s guidelines.

d) Position bags on solid surface, and never inflated against sharp objects.

e) Continuously support the load being lifted with cribbing. Never work under a load supported only by air bags.

f) When box cribbing is used to support an air bag, the top layer should be solid.

g) Prevent bags from coming into contact with temperatures above 220° F.

h) Never stack more than 2 bags high.