



# QUICK RESPONSE

*Saving life and property through effective licensing, plan review,  
and inspection of fire protection systems.*

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## DRY PIPE VALVE – AIR SUPPLY

A reliable **air supply** is necessary to allow the dry pipe system to remain in service and maintain the necessary pressure differential between the air and water sides of the dry pipe valve clapper. The proper air pressure should be maintained in the system at all times. Low air pressures could result in accidental operation of the dry pipe valve. High air pressures result in slower dry pipe valve operation because additional air must be exhausted before water can be delivered to open sprinklers.

Generally, air is supplied from an air compressor. The source of compressed **air supply** shall be available at all times and be capable of restoring normal air pressure in the system within 30 minutes.

The connection pipe from the air compressor shall not be less than ½ inch diameter and shall enter the system above the priming water level of the dry pipe valve. Pumping air directly from an air compressor through a fully open supply pipe into the sprinkler system is not permitted. This unrestricted flow of air can add air too quickly thus preventing or slowing operation of the dry pipe valve. A listed air maintenance device provides both restriction of air flow and regulation of the air pressure.

