

# **MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FIRE/EMS COMMITTEE**

## **COMPRESSED AIR SUPPLY FOR OTHER THAN DEPARTMENTAL USE**

It is common practice for recognized fire departments to provide compressed air to other fire fighting organizations.

Nothing contained herein is to be construed to diminish that long standing practice. It is recommended that every department that supplies compressed air to other fire departments have a standing mutual aid policy with that department. The body of the mutual aid agreement shall have clauses that “hold harmless” the respective parties.

It is discouraged to provide compressed air to other than recognized governmental entities (i.e., no private industry other than private fire brigades that have a mutual aid agreement and where the providing fire department is the authority having jurisdiction). For example, don't provide air to a dive club or where commercial air is available.

If a fire department finds it in their best interest to provide compressed air to other than recognized fire departments, a written release should be attained and signed by all the involved parties. Attached is a sample of a “Release and Hold Harmless Agreement” that may be of benefit in drafting an agreement for your organization.

Under no circumstances should air bottles be filled that do not have current hydrostatic testing dates.

In addition to mutual aid agreements and hold harmless clauses, a fire department that owns and operates an air compressor should:

1. Train and limit the number of operators.
2. Ensure that the proper maintenance is performed on the compressor (e.g., air filters are replaced in a timely fashion).
3. Obtain an air quality testing contract and test the air on a quarterly basis.
4. Provide the proper monitoring equipment.
5. Have the compressor installed by a certified factory representative.
6. Draft the intake air from an outside source.