

North Texas Chapter American Backflow Prevention Association

Protecting Safe Drinking Water

Newsletter Volume 12



Volume 112, May 2011

President's Message

Happy Spring!

Thanks to all of you who volunteered to serve on our Board of Directors. Specifically, for Treasurer, Jerry Davis; for Secretary, Felix Matos; and for Board at Large; William (Buddy) Heuberger, Don Godfrey, and Hal Haas.

We are looking forward to attending the National Conference and Trade Show in San Antonio next week. It looks like it will be fun and informative. We will have a Presentation in September to go over what we learned there.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting on July 12, 2011 at 11:30. Please note the location is in Irving, Texas

Please enjoy this issue.

Cherie DeLude

NEXT MEETING

July 12, 2011
11:30 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.

Location: Hardin & Assoc, 5005 W. Royal Lane, #170, Irving, Texas 75063

Topic: Asset Management and Backflow Prevention

Presenter: Byron Hardin

WE ARE IN DESPERATE
NEED OF ARTICLES!

If you like to write, or you already have something written, PLEASE share it with us.

Anything is welcome, even small things, like brochures and pamphlets like the ones you see the cities give out.

Thank you Jeff, Hal and Billy for providing things to publish!!!!

Keep up the good work!!

To remove your name from our mailing list, please contact jeff.porter@tdindustries.com.

Questions or comments? Email us at c.delude@att.net or call 972-647-8378

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Metroplex Training, Hurst, Texas 817-571-4574
(BACKFLOW):

8 hour—June 10; July 8; August 12

Confined Space—June 9; July 7; August 11

40 hour—June 13-17; July 11-15; August 15-19



Texas A & M School of Irrigation, <http://irrigation.tamu.edu>

Please visit their website for the 2010-2011 fall-winter short course schedule.

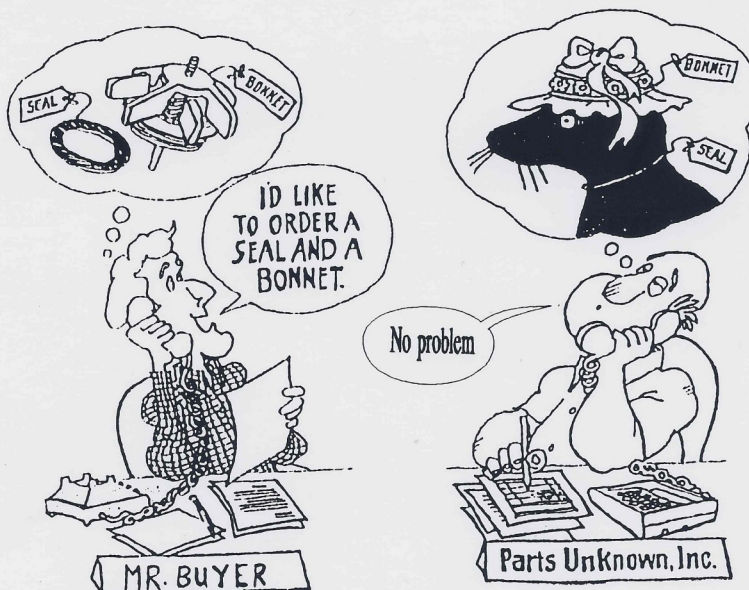
Texas Engineering Extension Service, teex.org/www

Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing (BPAT), Customer Service Inspector (CSI) Training, Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance Program, On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) Training, WWW Online Courses, Landscape Irrigator Testing, WWW Specialty Courses

Please visit their website for the course schedules. For more information, call **800-SAFE-811 (800-723-3811)** or email itsi@teexmail.tamu.edu

Advertisements

FINDING BACKFLOW REPAIR PARTS A PROBLEM??



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✓ RIGHT INFO

✓ RIGHT NOW

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Choosing the Proper backflow Prevention Device at the point of service.

The choice of what backflow prevention device to use for a particular plumbing configuration varies greatly from city to city in our metroplex area.

How is **your** city protecting your drinking water?

What type of protection is required on an icemaker in your city? Do you require an RP? Maybe "just" a double-check? Do you require **any** backflow prevention protection at all?

What about the protection for a carbonator on a "soda fountain" like those used in restaurants and convenience stores? Does your city work to protect customers from possible copper sulfate poisoning in the case of the carbonation backing up the copper tubing on the system?

In larger facilities the water supply may have a recirculating system that most likely contains an additive, usually a non-corrosive agent. Does your city protect the public water by requiring a reduced Pressure Assembly, also known as an RP on a service line with additives?

Continued on page 6

Backflow Extremes: Cold Temperatures

By: Jesse Bockhouse

The one extreme condition that we are probably the most familiar with is excessively cold temperatures. Most of us can relate to any number of stories about finding backflow preventers with cracked bodies after a good hard freeze. We can find these problems in poorly heated mechanical rooms, the startup of that improperly winterized assembly on the irrigation system or other scenarios. These situations are obviously relevant (so we'll start there), but I would like to bring up some other symptoms as well.

It gets cold out there, really cold sometimes. When you are out testing or surveying an area be sure to ask yourself whether you believe that the heating within the area will be adequate to prevent freeze damage to the piping or backflow preventer. Even if it is the middle of summer, be sure to take note of potential heating problems. Remember the saying about an ounce of prevention. Many of us have been in rooms with a backflow preventer that is low in the room and the heater is blowing air somewhere above it. Plenty of these rooms also have no insulation at the ceiling. Heat rises and escapes through the ceiling or at least the heat never makes it to the backflow preventer. Even a room that is heated decently may have very drafty areas that can fall below freezing perhaps around roll-up doors, windows, basements or other areas. Extend this line of thinking to irrigation and realize that even when daytime temperatures are adequate, nighttime temps may be cold enough to freeze small volumes of water. That said, remember that just wrapping a layer of insulation around an irrigation assembly will not create heat within it and will not protect against a hard freeze. When this wrapping is done to a reduced pressure backflow the relief valve is most often also covered and therefore defeated. Heat tape may help keep pipes and backflow preventers warm but this is not a substitute for a properly heated environment.

Even if the body of the backflow preventer doesn't freeze to the point where it cracks, many different models have small areas inside where a small volume of water sits and does not flow much of the time. Think about relief valves that have external sensing tubes and (high pressure side) cavities. These areas in the relief valve contain very small volumes of water and this water is generally not moving during normal flow conditions. These relief valves may be at risk of being the first components to freeze. Keep in mind also that the action of the moving components within these relief valves may work slower on very cold days.

Continued on Page 7

EPA Releases Searchable Website for Drinking Water Violations / Agency to host webinar to show how to use the public health data

Release date: 05/16/2011

Contact Information: Stacy Kika, kika.stacy@epa.gov, 202-564-0906, 202-564-4355

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced improvements to the availability and usability of drinking water data in the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) tool. ECHO now allows the public to search to see whether drinking water in their community met the standards required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which is designed to safeguard the nation's drinking water and protect people's health. SDWA requires states to report drinking water information periodically to EPA. ECHO also includes a new feature identifying drinking water systems that have had serious noncompliance.

"Today's improvements to EPA's ECHO tool support President Obama's directive to make it easier for the public to search for and use the information we collect," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Improved access to information about our nation's drinking water is critical for communities, nonprofit organizations, public water suppliers, regulators and industry that all have a stake in ensuring the water in our communities is safe and healthy to drink."

The new Safe Drinking Water Act information on EPA's website provides:

- Users with information about whether their drinking water has exceeded drinking water standards.
- A serious violators report that lists all water suppliers with serious noncompliance.
- EPA's 2009 National Public Water Systems Compliance Report, which is a national summary of compliance and enforcement at public drinking water systems.

The serious violators list identifies water systems that have had serious noncompliance due to a combination of unresolved violations. The data in ECHO shows that overall, the number of systems identified as serious violators continues to decrease due to lead agencies, in most cases the states, more efficiently addressing serious noncompliance. Currently, approximately 4 percent of all public water systems are considered serious violators. Through increased oversight and enforcement efforts, EPA will continue to work to reduce the rate of noncompliance and the number of public water systems that are serious violators.

Under the SDWA, water suppliers are required to promptly inform customers if drinking water has been contaminated by something that could cause immediate illness or impact people's health. If such a violation occurs, the water system will announce the violation and provide information about the potential health effects, steps the system is taking to correct the violation, and the need to use alternative water supplies (such as boiled or bottled water) until the problem is corrected. Systems inform customers about violations of less immediate concern in the first water bill sent after the violation, in a Consumer Confidence Report, or by mail.

EPA's enforcement goals for clean water include working with states and tribes to ensure clean drinking water for all communities and improving transparency by making facility compliance data available to the public. The release of drinking water violations data in ECHO advances these goals and creates additional incentives for government agencies to improve their reporting of drinking water violations and increase efforts to address those violations.

EPA will host a webinar demonstrating how to use the Safe Drinking Water Act violation information in ECHO on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 2 p.m. EDT. The demonstration will show users how to search for information about local water quality, how to compare data by state, and highlight other features of the tool.

Reserve webinar seat: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/787466401>

Safe Drinking Water Act search page: http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/compliance_report_sdwa.html

Enforcement and Compliance History Online tool: <http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/>



STOLEN GAUGES REPORT

Please let us know if you have had a gauge stolen. Provide us with the Make, Model and Serial Number. We will list them here so everyone can keep a look out for them.

Give us your contact information and we will let you know if anyone finds it and tells us they did.

STOLEN In Houston
CONBRACO 40-200TKP backflow test kit,
Serial #306631
Call: Glenn Pourteau 713 875-8891

JOBS CORNER

If you are aware of a job listing please let us know and we can post it here!

2011 and 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
September 13, 2011	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.	Review of National Conference	Dallas Medical Center, 7 Medical Parkway, Dallas, Texas 75234
November 8, 2011	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.		Undecided
January 10, 2012	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.		Undecided
March 13, 2012	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.		Undecided
May 8, 2012	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.	Review of National Conference	Undecided
July 10, 2012	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.		Undecided
September 11, 2012	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.		Undecided
November 13, 2012	11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.		Undecided

Do You Know of any Events?

We are attempting to identify events around the state where NT ABPA could set up an educational booth. These could include children's events, water festivals, garden shows, trade seminars, Independence Day celebrations and similar events. If you are aware of any such events please contact us at c.delude@att.net and let us know. We would like to start really promoting public education of backflow prevention and this is one way we can work toward that goal.

Would you be interested in helping to man an educational booth at any events? We could use volunteers! If we can get several people at an event then everyone can take turns at the booth and still enjoy the event. Again, contact any of the officers or email us at c.delude@att.net

Repair class anyone?

We are interested to know if anyone would like us to put on a repair class? The thinking is that it will be mostly on small valves, but we could check into something on the larger ones too.

Please let us know at the next meeting if you think this would be something you would attend.

Thank You

Continued: Choosing the Proper backflow Prevention Device at the point of service.

Prevention of a "backflow incident" in which water is accidentally polluted or poisoned is the goal that we pursue in the area of backflow prevention.

If you work for a City and don't know the answers to these questions, you need to search them out. If you live in a City and don't know the answers to these questions, you need to search them out. Join us as we discuss the devices, the regulated uses, the preferred uses and common situations that arise in plumbing and backflow prevention.

We meet, we greet, we chat. Our local Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association exists, according to our mission statement, to be **"Working to Protect the Drinking Water of the North Texas Area."**

TO EVERYONE ATTENDING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MAY!!!!

Anyone who is attending the conference please try to take some pictures at the classes or events or just of San Antonio. Even of the vendor booths. I would like to use them for the presentation in September that is a review of the Conference. Photos always make a presentation so much better!!!
Thanks in advance for your help!
Cherie DeLude.

TIP OF THE MONTH

Does anyone have some ideas for this little tiny section? I would love for someone to help me with the monthly tips sections!!!

Continued:

Backflow Extremes: Cold Temperatures

By: Jesse Bockhouse

Often you can observe a noticeable difference in RV opening point measurements taken on the same backflow preventer even within a day or two if the temperature fluctuations are sizable. It can be helpful to understand how these components work under all conditions to be able to evaluate their overall effectiveness. Lastly, when observing the relief valve operation, be sure that if there is a drain to the outside of a building underneath be sure to note if cold air is able to blow directly on the relief valve. I have seen the relief valves of some models be extremely susceptible to freezing the small volume of water on the high side of the diaphragm. Sometime the diaphragm tears and when this happens you may see full discharge. This relief valve Achilles heel can result in massive water damage.

Do not forget while we talk about the assemblies that you also carry a vital tool that can also be destroyed by freeze damage. If you are a tester you cannot do much without your test kit and doing something as simple as not properly draining it and letting it in a cold vehicle overnight can render it unusable and in need of calibration(or in bad cases it may be completely destroyed). Some of us have also been testing in cold environments and witnessed flash freezing to our kit during the test procedure. Water begins to freeze within the hoses, test kit, sight tube, etc... If this happens, be sure to finish and place your kit in a warm place then examine it to make sure it bottoms out at zero and appears to be working properly.

The last point I'd like to make is regarding public and personal safety. A tester's primary responsibility is to the public. Schedule your testing in such a way that you will not be tempted to hurry through the testing or taking shortcuts. If it is too cold do not test assemblies that could risk your safety. Come back to these tests when you will not get frostbite. And on that note, remember to be safe. If you are risking your own safety testing when conditions are too cold or you must open a failing assembly to repair it, reschedule these when the weather is warmer and STAY SAFE!

Current Board Members, 2010-2012

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CALENDAR OF CONVENTIONS AND SEMINARS

ABPA 2011 Annual Education Conference & Trade Show : The Hyatt Regency San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas - May 23-25, 2011 Board Meetings May 21, 2011 & May 25, 2011

Hotel cost \$139 per night. Conference cost : members \$390 early, \$415 late: non-members \$430 early, \$455 late.

Attendees will enjoy up to 30 technical education sessions presented by experts in the field of cross-connection control research, backflow assembly repair, ABPA test procedures, water system and tester liability to name a few. More information will be available soon.

The “Welcoming Reception” will have a San Antonio Fiesta theme and the “Post Conference” event will be held at Pedrotti’s North Wind Ranch in Helotes and will be a Country-Western gala. A DJ is scheduled to play at both events. The “Welcoming Reception” is included in the conference registration fee, however the additional cost to attend the Western Gala is \$50.00 per person. There will be lots of food, drinks, and prizes, so everyone will have a chance to win.

The Conference attendees will have the opportunity to take a walking excursion to the SAWS Heating & Cooling Plant downtown to see how this facility provides the necessary heating and air conditioning for several of the downtown buildings. The trip is about a 12 to 15 minute walk each way.

ABPA 2012 Annual Education Conference & Trade Show: The Silver Legacy Hotel, Reno, Nevada - April 30 - May 2, 2012 Board Meetings April 28, 2012 & May 2, 2012

TBPA 15th Annual Conference: The Edgewater Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tennessee—October 13 & 14, 2011

CBPA 20th Annual Conference: Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, Colorado — November 15, 2011

CHAPTER COMMITTEES

NEWLETTER

- One person to find training opportunities locally for BF, plumbers and irrigators
- One person to track stolen gauges
- One person to find articles on backflow incidents
- One person to find major conventions and seminars nationwide for BF, plumbers and irrigators
- One person to find companies to advertise in newsletter
- One person to get new member info for newsletter
- One person to find things to post in jobs corner
- One person to coordinate with multiple people to get articles submitted for newsletter

MEETING COMMITTEE

- Need help in finding topics and presenters.
- Jerry may need help in meal planning?? More choices and price lists?
- Need help in finding sponsors for the meals

CONFERENCE

- We need someone to help scout locations to hold the event.
- We need someone to then locate hotels nearby to the location.
- We need someone to invite vendors for the trade show exhibits. (Including setting up booth fees and collecting them).
- We need someone to invite presenters for the education section. (Preferably people who will do it free for this first one).
- We need someone to coordinate the food for the event. (At least a continental breakfast and lunch.)
- We need several people to help with registration, including deciding the fee for attendance, and information at the event.

MEMBERSHIP

- Need one person to get info from TCEQ
- Need one person to set it up for doing a mass mailing
- Need one person to do the mass mailing
- Need someone to track when we get new members and/or help Jerry do it!

The North Texas Chapter Newsletter is published monthly by the North Texas Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association, whose members have a common interest in protecting the drinking water from contamination through cross connections. Your ideas, experience and expertise are invited and needed by the NT ABPA to insure a balanced approach to backflow prevention in the State of Texas. Your participation and support will continue to help shape the future of this industry in Texas.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements in this publication are not necessarily those endorsed or supported by the NT ABPA. The content of this newsletter is not to be considered as legal or professional advice. **Dues are \$83 annually**, and are payable to the ABPA National Treasurer. Annual dues include \$23 for Texas Chapter and \$60 for National ABPA dues. National membership is required for Texas membership.

The National ABPA Treasurer address is: **POST OFFICE BOX 3051, BRYAN, TX 77805-3051. 979-846-7606 . 979-846-7607 FAX . www.abpa.org** Link to National Membership Application: <http://www.abpa.org/Doc/PDF/Membership.pdf>

For newsletter advertisements contact:

North Texas Chapter, ABPA, Attn: Cherie DeLude, 613 Laurel Street, Cedar Hill, Texas 75104



AMERICAN BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSOCIATION

ABPA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join the American Backflow Prevention Association, simply fill out the membership application form and mail it with your check to the address listed below, or if paying by credit card you may fax the completed form to 979.846.7607. Local chapters have additional fees. Below is a listing of chapters by region. To find out if there is a local chapter in your area please review the chapter information on our website at abpa.org or call the National Office at 979.846.7606. Membership in the Association constitutes paying National dues.

US Membership \$60.00 International Membership \$74.00 Affiliate Organization \$300.00

Name: _____ Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Work phone : (____) _____ Fax : (____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Local Chapter (if joining a local chapter): _____ Local Dues: _____

Total Amount Paid: _____ (remit US \$ drawn on a US bank, payable to the ABPA)

New Member Renewal

If paying by credit card include the following and fax to 979.846.7607:

Credit Card No.: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as it appears on the card: _____

Signature: _____



ABPA Federal ID # 74-2395100

LOCAL CHAPTER DUES LISTED BY REGION:

REGION 1		North Texas	\$23.00	REGION 9 (USD)	
New England	\$12.00	San Antonio	20.00	New Brunswick	\$50.00
Western New York	13.00	REGION 5		Ontario	50.00
Rhode Island	18.00	Colorado	\$15.00	REGION 10	
REGION 2		Southeastern Colorado	15.00	Wisconsin	\$10.00
Delaware	\$ 5.00	Utah	12.00	REGION 11	
Penn State	10.00	REGION 6		Indiana	\$ 5.00
REGION 3		Arizona	\$20.00	Indiana BPA	20.00
Carolinas	\$10.00	Central Coast	10.00	Michigan	37.00
Florida Suncoast	12.00	Central Valley California	10.00	Northern Illinois	23.00
Georgia	34.00	Hawaii	23.00	Ohio	10.00
Gold Coast	10.00	Silver State	23.00	Southern Illinois	23.00
Peach State "1788"	30.00	Southern California	15.00	REGION 12	
Tennessee	20.00	REGION 7		Central Missouri	\$20.00
REGION 4		Big Sky	\$10.00	Eastern Nebraska	10.00
Arkansas	\$10.00	Idaho	10.00	Heart of America	12.00
Central Texas	20.00	Oregon	20.00	Panhandle	5.00
Corpus Christi	23.00	SRCA	20.00	Western Nebraska	8.00
Gulf Coast	23.00	REGION 8			
Lower Rio Grande Valley	25.00	No Local			

06.2009