



White City Water Improvement District

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General Manager's Report

Welcome to Spring! With the coming of spring, District customers will start using water outside for gardens, lawns and other outdoor activities. Demand for water will dramatically increase and customer sprinkler systems will be turning on. At this time the District wants to make sure those who have backflow assemblies have them tested.

This will mean that you will need to make sure if you have a backflow assembly on your sprinkling system that it is tested by a State of Utah Certified Technician before your turn your system on for the watering season. The following link will allow you to access a list provided by the State of Utah:

<https://waterlink.utah.gov/deqWater/public/publicBackflowComm.html>

Here are some FAQ's regarding cross connection and backflow:

QUESTION: What is a cross-connection?

ANSWER: A cross-connection is any temporary or permanent connection between a public water system or consumer's potable (i.e., drinking) water system and any source or system containing non-potable water or other substances. An example is the piping between a public water system or consumer's potable water system and an auxiliary water system, cooling system, or irrigation system.

QUESTION: What is backflow?

ANSWER: Backflow is the undesirable reversal of flow of non-potable water or other substances through a cross-connection and into the piping of a public water system or consumer's potable water system. There are two types of backflow... backpressure backflow and backsiphonage.

QUESTION: What is backpressure backflow?

ANSWER: Backpressure backflow is backflow caused by a downstream pressure that is greater than the upstream or supply pressure in a public water system or consumer's potable water system. Backpressure (i.e., downstream pressure that is greater than the potable water supply pressure) can result from an increase in downstream pressure, a reduction in the potable water supply pressure, or a combination of both. Increases in downstream pressure can be created by pumps, temperature increases in boilers, etc. Reductions in potable water supply pressure occur whenever the amount of water being used exceeds the amount of water being supplied, such as during water line flushing, firefighting, or breaks in water mains.

QUESTION: What is backsiphonage?

ANSWER: backsiphonage is backflow caused by a negative pressure (i.e., a vacuum ~ or partial vacuum) in a Public water system or consumer's potable water system. The effect is similar to drinking water through a straw. backsiphonage can occur when there is a stoppage of water supply due to nearby firefighting, a break in a water main, etc.

QUESTION: Why do water suppliers need to control cross-connections and protect their public water systems against backflow?

ANSWER: Backflow into a public water system can pollute or contaminate the water in that system (i.e., backflow into a public water system can make the water in that system unusable or unsafe to drink), and each water supplier has a responsibility to provide water that is usable and safe to drink under all foreseeable circumstances. Furthermore, consumers generally have absolute faith that water delivered to them through a public water system is always safe to drink. For these reasons, each water supplier must take reasonable precautions to protect its public water system against backflow.

General Manager

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QUESTION: What is a backflow preventer?

ANSWER: A backflow preventer is a means or mechanism to prevent backflow. The basic means of preventing backflow is an air gap, which either eliminates a cross-connection or provides a barrier to backflow. The basic mechanism for preventing backflow is a mechanical backflow preventer, which provides a physical barrier to backflow. The principal types of mechanical backflow preventer are the reduced-pressure principle assembly, the pressure vacuum breaker assembly, and the double check valve assembly. A secondary type of mechanical backflow preventer is the residential dual check valve.

QUESTION: What is an air gap?

ANSWER: An air gap is a vertical, physical separation between the end of a water supply outlet and the flood-level rim of a receiving vessel. This separation must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet and never less than one inch. An air gap is considered the maximum protection available against backpressure backflow or backsiphonage but is not always practical and can easily be bypassed.

QUESTION: What is a reduced principle assembly (RP)?

ANSWER: An RP is a mechanical backflow preventer that consists of two independently acting, spring-loaded check valves with a hydraulically operating, mechanically independent, spring-loaded pressure differential relief valve between the check valves and below the first check valve. It includes shutoff valves at each end of the assembly and is equipped with test cocks. An RP is effective against backpressure backflow and backsiphonage and may be used to isolate health or non-health hazards.

QUESTION: What is a pressure vacuum breaker assembly (PVB)?

ANSWER: A PVB is a mechanical backflow preventer that consists of an independently acting, spring-loaded check valve and an independently acting, spring-loaded, air inlet valve on the discharge side of the check valve. It includes shutoff valves at each end of the assembly and is equipped with test cocks. A PVB may be used to isolate health or non-health hazards but is effective against backsiphonage only.

QUESTION: What is a double check valve assembly (DC)?

ANSWER: A DC is a mechanical backflow preventer that consists of two independently acting, spring-loaded check valves. It includes shutoff valves at each end of the assembly and is equipped with test cocks. A DC is effective against backpressure backflow and backsiphonage but should be used to isolate only non-health hazards. This assembly is not allowed on sprinkler systems, unless grandfathered.

QUESTION: What is a residential dual check valve (RDC)?

ANSWER: A RDC is similar to a DC in that it is a mechanical backflow preventer consisting of two independently acting, spring-loaded check valves. However, it usually does not include shutoff valves, may or may not be equipped with test cocks or ports, and is generally less reliable than a DC. A RDC is effective against backpressure backflow and backsiphonage but should be used to isolate only non-health hazards and is intended for use only in water service connections to single-family homes. This assembly is not allowed on sprinkler systems.

QUESTION: Why do backflow preventers have to be tested periodically?

ANSWER: Mechanical backflow preventers have internal seals,

springs, and moving parts that are subject to fouling, wear, or fatigue. Also, mechanical backflow preventers and air gaps can be bypassed. Therefore, all backflow preventers have to be tested periodically to ensure that they are functioning properly. A visual check of air gaps is sufficient, but mechanical backflow preventers have to be tested with properly calibrated gauge equipment.

For subdivisions and other property owners that have modified , upgraded or installed a new sprinkler system and water lines, since adoption of the policy, backflow prevention assemblies have been required to be placed on water lines. Where such assemblies exist, the assemblies must be inspected yearly by a certified backflow tester (a link to the State of Utah website is provided in the first paragraph of this document) and approved prior to turning on the system. Those property owners WCWID knows to be subject to this part of the Cross Connection backflow prevention policy will be receiving the initial letters from WCWID informing them of the requirement and explains in more detail what is required. The annual inspection results are due back to the District by before the system is put in to service for the year. For those who have an assembly in place please schedule your test now. Those properties which currently have an assembly will receive the annual letter on April 1st, 2017 but if you put your system into service before that date please have the assemblies tested and results submitted to the District.

If you need information regarding proper installation of a backflow assembly, please contact the District and a member of the Operations Department will respond to your questions.



Construction Notice

With an anticipated start date of early to mid April, White City Water Improvement District will be replacing approximately 900 feet of pipe to complete phase 2 of the Zinnia Way mainline replacement project. The project will run from Delphinium Street and finish at Larkspur Drive.

It is anticipated it will take 30 days from start to completion and the residents directly affected will be notified when a solid start date is determined. Along with upsizing the pipe to 8 inch ductile iron pipe we will also be adding two new fire hydrants and copper service lines to the current meter locations.

Office Training Notice

The office will be closed the morning of May 3, 2017 from 8:00 AM to Noon for Staff and Board Training. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office during normal business hours at 801-571-3991.