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Association



10th Annual
International Conference

May 1 - 4, 1994

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Knoxville, Tennessee

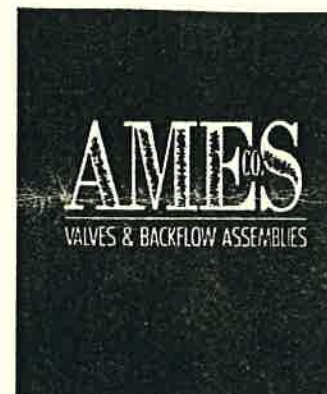
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American Backflow Prevention



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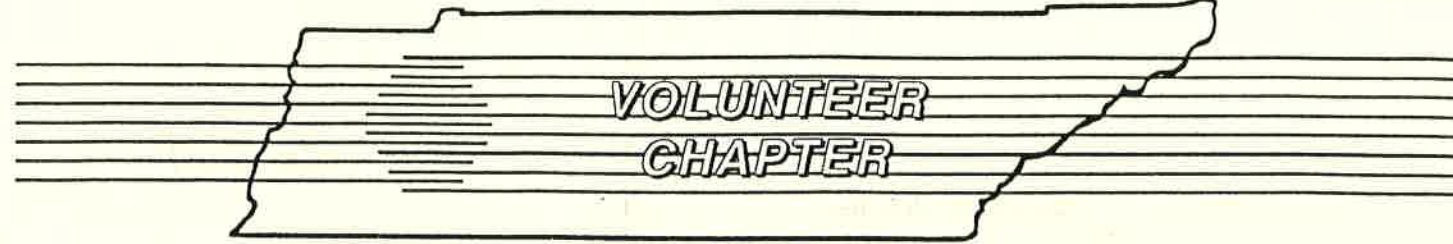
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Volunteer Chapter • American Backflow Prevention Association

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Volume 2 Issue 1

March, 1994

◆ **President's Corner**

**November 17, 1993
Jackson, TN**

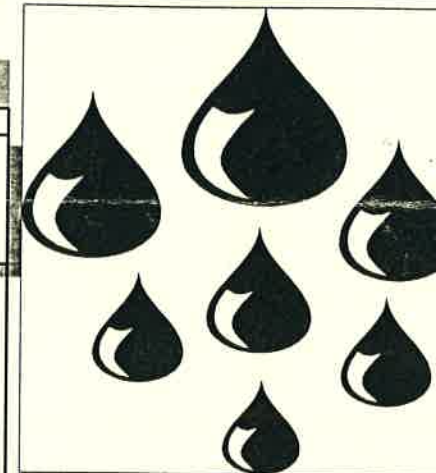
Greetings to the Volunteer Chapter members and friends, and a warm thank you to Jeff Becker and those at Jackson Utility Division for hosting the last quarterly Chapter meeting. All who attended and contributed helped make the meeting a great success.

A Nominating Committee was appointed to recommend individuals who will be willing to serve a term on the Board of Directors. Nominating Committee members are: Steve Warren, Memphis; Dean Davenport, Nashville, and Paul Manis, Knoxville.

Patty Davenport and Larry Stinnett were named to the By-Laws Committee, which is responsible for keeping the Chapter straight! The By-laws Committee interprets the Chapter's actions to insure we adhere to the by-laws of the Chapter and the National Association.

Special thanks to our panel of Steve Warren, Larry Stinnett and Becky Thompson who fielded a wide variety of questions from the audience.

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Important Date

The next meeting of the Volunteer Chapter ABPA will be March 16, 1994, at 2:00 PM at the Knoxville Utility Board in Knoxville, TN.

Please call one of the Chapter Officers if you need directions.

We will be looking forward to seeing everyone there to help our organization grow and prosper.

◆ **Technical Tips**

Confined Space Regulations

The new O.S.H.A. confined space rule is the only regulation of its kind for those in the backflow prevention industry. The national plumbing Codes are very vague when it comes to health and safety. They also do not regulate confined space entry.

Many backflow preventer testers are faced with backflow preventers installed in difficult locations. Many of these installations are considered to be in "confined" areas or "permit-required" confined areas because the configurations hinder the tester who must enter into, work

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ABPA News

President's Corner

Volunteer Chapter

Published quarterly by the Volunteer Chapter of the American Backflow Prevention Association, whose members have a common interest in protecting the drinking water from contamination through cross-connections. Opinions expressed in articles or letters are not necessarily those supported by the Chapter.

Your ideas and expertise are needed by the Volunteer Chapter ABPA to ensure a balanced approach to solving backflow problems in the State of Tennessee. Your participation will help shape the future of cross connection control across the State by providing support for a unified backflow prevention effort.

Advertisement Rates Per Issue:

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Make check payable to Volunteer Chapter ABPA and mail ad copy and payment to Chapter address:

Volunteer Chapter ABPA
% P. O. Box 5
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10.00 Volunteer Chapter
\$37.00 Total Annual Dues

Make check payable to ABPA.
(National membership is required for Chapter membership.)

Mail dues to:

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Valve and Fittings
Becky Thompson------(615) 868-5400
Madison Suburban Utility District, Madison, TN

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Many topics were covered including State requirements, fire system protection, device installation requirements, residential protection, as well as ABPA itself. In addition, Larry had a brief presentation on the topic of liability, something we should all sit up and take notice of!

Your talents and gifts are needed in the Volunteer Chapter. If you are particularly talented or interested in a given area-such as legal matters, computer layout and graphics, education/training, leadership, etc., please let us know and we will help you find a place in the Chapter where you can get involved and contribute your abilities.

See you in Knoxville in March and please mark your calendar to attend the National Convention in Knoxville this May!!

Dale

Miscellaneous

PLEASE!!!!

Articles, Technical Tips and other information are needed by the newsletter committee. If you have information or need information please call one of the committee members and they will be happy to assist you. The newsletter committee members are:

Dale Phelps (615)436-4681
Don Treesh (615)594-3633
Greg Young (205)233-2033
Becky Thompson (615)868-5400
Eddie Agee (615)754-8284

Legislation Update

Once again, the Volunteer Chapter is keeping you up to date on legislation that affects the backflow industry. A Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) reauthorization bill currently before Congress includes a ban on water main/heat sink/heat pump systems. This system returns the coolant water to the water main after passing through a heat exchanger, usually in a residential heat pump system.

It would be in our interest to contact our Congressman and Senators and urge them to support the Senate bill sponsored by Senator Max Bacus, D-MT, and House bill sponsored by Reps. Jim Slattery, D-KS., and Thomas Bliley, R-VA.

Related topical information can be found in recent industry trade publications.

Congratulations!!
Volunteer
Chapter ABPA
First Anniversary
March, 1994

Technical Tip

Confined Space Regulation

(Continued from Page 1, Column 3)

in, and exit from the area.

A *confined space* must meet all three of the following:

- (1) Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
- (2) Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry); and
- (3) Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Permit-required confined space (permit space) means a **confined** space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- (1) Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
- (2) Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant;
- (3) Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which sloped downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; or
- (4) Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

The Owners must develop a Written Program for a Permit System. They must have a written permit for *each entry*, training and education,

emergency programs and atmospheric testing. These are only a few of the requirements imposed by this new OSHA regulation.

Because of the *dangers*, OSHA Regulation 29 CFR 1910.146 *mandates* strict safety rules to be followed when entering pits and vaults. Anyone entering these spaces without adhering to the OSHA rules are subject to a fine. This regulation was necessary because of the many recorded fatalities that occurred when entering permit-required confined spaces. The majority of these fatalities were due to the presence of lethal gases.

It is not only the responsibility of the owner and employer, it is the responsibility of the tester or repairman to make sure they have a safe place and environment in which to work.

(Submitted by Dean Davenport, HydroCowl, Inc., Nashville, TN)

Gauge Problems

Diaphragm type test gauges bodies, like the Watts TK-9A and other similar styles, are often made out of anodized aluminum. This is fine but if pipe scale or debris flushes into the gauge body, it can scratch the anodizing and start a corrosion process inside the gauge. This will show up as erratic needle movement, the needle sticking in one place or the needle not going

to zero. Unfortunately, once the inside body of the gauge is scratched and corrosion has set in, probably nothing can be done but replace the gauge body. A set of filters in the hoses will help, and don't forget to flush the testcocks before connecting to your gauge!

(Submitted by Dale Phelps, City of Gatlinburg, TN)

New Members

Aubrey Blanks, Smyrna, TN

Jeff Becker, Jaskson, TN

Bruce Curtis, Alcoa, TN

James Howard, Knoxville, TN

Robert Lashlee, Nashville, TN

Bill Levin, Nolensville, TN

Lloyd Rainey, Memphis, TN