

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association

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TBPA

*We're working for
clean water
in Tennessee.*

37774-0304



Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association

Tennessee Backflow News

Spring 1998

Next Meeting:

Thursday, June 4
10:00 am Central

Madison Suburban
Utility District office

For directions/info call-
Becky Thompson at
615-868-3201 ext.218

11 AM Tech Session:
*Test & Maintenance of
Fire System Backflow
Assemblies*

Inside this issue:

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Tennessee Conference Draws Over 70 in Jackson

Jackson, Tennessee was the location of the Third Annual Conference of the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association. More than 50 attendees registered for the day, and 12 vendors and Manufacturers were represented.

Six presentations were given by five nationally recognized industry experts. Each speaker provided attendees with excellent topical information. Breakfast and lunch were served on location, and 12 vendor booths were set up with the latest in industry equipment and services.

Many Conference attendees were particularly interested in the sessions concerning the legal liabilities of workers, businesses, and utilities in the industry. Douglas Creagor, an Attorney-At-Law specializing in environ-

See pictures on page 5 of this issue.

mental and regulatory law as related to the backflow industry was the speaker for the two liability sessions. Legal terms and procedures were explained, and the

many questions from the attendees were addressed and answered.

Special thanks to all who assisted in the Conference, including Jeff Becker, Dave Kellogg, Becky Thompson, Grady & Mary Gentry, Bob Deal, Patty Davenport, Larry Stinnett, John Hall, Dale Phelps, and the Jackson Utility Division Art Department.

The TBPA grew with many new members joining at the Conference. The hard work and tireless efforts of the 1998 Conference Committee are appreciated.

President's Message

*By Dave Kellogg,
TBPA President*

I would like to start this article by thanking everyone that participated in the Third Annual Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association Conference held March 12, 1998 in Jackson, Tennessee. I wish to extend a special thanks to the Conference Committee for their hard work in organ-

izing the event. It's time to start planning for next years conference to be held in Murfreesboro, so send in any ideas or suggestions for this event. I wish to extend special thanks and appreciation to Patty Davenport of HydroCowl and Becky Thompson for their hard work on the Chapter Newsletter over the past few years. We are

giving them a much deserved break. Thanks also to Dale Phelps, the TBPA Secretary, who is assuming newsletter duties for the remainder of this year. Please don't forget the next scheduled TBPA meeting June 4, 1998 at the offices of the Madison Suburban Utility District, please contact Becky Thompson for directions.

(Continued on page 3)

Getting Educated...

Tennessee has plenty of good training and educational opportunities in backflow prevention and cross connection control for you. Most offer "certification" in testing proficiency.

- The Fleming Training Center, in conjunction with the Tennessee Division of Water Supply (TDEC-DWS): Classes are held in various areas of the State on an annual basis. Publishes a calendar of dates for scheduled classes. For more information contact Mr. Robert Lashlee at 615-532-0164, or the Fleming Training Center at 615-898-8064.
- The Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD): Classes are held in various areas of the State on a frequent basis. Contact Mr. John Hall at 615-896-9022 for further information.
- Memphis Light, Gas & Water (MLGW): Classes are held in the greater Memphis area on an annual basis. Contact Roger Crane at 901-528-4720 for further information.
- Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 572, Nashville: Backflow Classes for Apprentices and Journeyman, contact Mike Trigg at 615-254-7235 for further information.
- To list or update your training class here please contact us!

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

Valid/Invalid Assembly Approvals

Spotlight on Local Union 572 Backflow Training

Wet Fire Systems & Drinking Water Quality

Testing DCVA and DCDA Fire System Assemblies

Test & Repair Tips

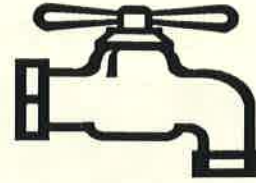
What's New?

Coming Summer 1998



**Get Smart
Get Training**

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association



The Tennessee Backflow News is published quarterly by the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association, whose members have a common interest in protecting the drinking water from contamination through cross connections.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements in this publication are not necessarily those supported by the TBPA.

Your ideas, experience and expertise are invited and needed by the TBPA to insure a balanced approach to backflow prevention in the State of Tennessee.

Your participation and support will help shape the future of this industry in Tennessee

Dues are \$42 annually, and are payable to the TBPA Treas-

urer. Annual dues include \$15 for Tennessee and \$27 for National ABPA dues. National membership is required for Tennessee membership.

The TBPA Treasurer address is:

Becky Thompson, TBPA Treasurer
c/o MSUD, PO Box 175
Madison, TN 37116-0175

All other info requests and inquiries, including newsletter items and advertisements can be directed to:

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association
Attn: Dale Phelps
c/o PO Box 5
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Let Us Hear From You!



Name	Affiliation	Phone #	Fax #
Dave Kellogg, President	City of Gallatin	615-452-5400	615-452-0568
Bob Deal, Vice-President	Hixon Utility District	423-877-3513	423-875-3116
Becky Thompson, Treasurer	Madison Suburban Utility District	615-868-3201	615-868-5595
Dale Phelps, Secretary	City of Gatlinburg	423-436-4681	423-430-3800
Jeff Becker, Director, West	City of Jackson	901-422-7214	901-422-7530
Bill Love, Director, Middle	City of Murfreesboro	615-848-3225	615-895-1241
Bruce Giles, Director, East	City of Oak Ridge	423-482-8342	423-482-8577
John Hall, Director At-Large	Tennessee Association of Utility Districts	615-896-9022	615-896-8608
Larry Stinnett, Director-At-Large	Backflow Specialty Company, Inc.	423-947-5722	423-947-5722
M.C. Sorrels	ABPA Region 3 Director	704-283-8554	704-283-8010
Paul Causey	ABPA Administrative Director	409-862-7606 ABPA Headquarters	409-862-7607 ABPA Headquarters

The Name Change

The Volunteer Chapter of the ABPA Board of Directors voted in 1997 to officially change the name of the state chapter to the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association.

The intent of the name change is to more closely reflect the nature and purpose of the organization to the public.

The TBPA is still affiliated with the ABPA as a local chapter, and membership dues include national ABPA membership and local TBPA membership.

Please support your local Tennessee chapter by renewing your local dues annually.

Benefits of State Certification For Contractors

Becky Thompson, Madison Suburban Utility District

In 1989, when I first started working in the cross connection program I was surprised at the lack of training the installers had in repairing the backflow preventers they were installing. I heard many a tale about the amount of backflows they had installed but when it came to the repair of the devices, little was known or understood.

After many repeated trips to retest backflow preventers that

had been repaired, I began encouraging those people (plumbers, fire sprinkler contractors and irrigation companies) doing the repairs to become certified. The certification would give them knowledge about the functions of a backflow and how to test the backflow after they repaired them. Also, opening avenues for them to obtain information they might need when confronted with a problem that could arise with the backflow preventer.

Since that time, approximately 75% of the different contractors in the area have become certified. The Local Plumbers & Pipefitters offer certification to their members. Several surrounding area utility districts have gone to private testing and require that the contractors provide proof of certification. Most of all, the customers are receiving better service when their backflow preventers need to be tested or repaired if they hire a certified contractor.

Are contractors in your area certified to test?

Acceptable Test Procedures In Tennessee

Mr. Robert Lashlee, P.E., Tennessee Division of Water Supply

The Tennessee Division of Water Supply accepts and recommends the following test procedures for testing backflow prevention assemblies:

1. The test procedures published in the "Manual of Cross Connection Control Ninth Edition", by the USC Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research for testing RP, DCV

and PVB assemblies.

2. An alternative procedure for testing Double Check Assemblies is the "High and Low Pressure Hose Method" using the differential pressure gage.

Please keep in mind that when testing any backflow prevention device, it is essential that the unit be in a static (no flow) condition.

Next issue: Double Check Assembly Test Procedures

Even a minor seepage in the unit's check valves will give erroneous readings. We recommend that the second check valve of the RP also be tested in the direction of flow as outlined in Section A.2.2 of the USC-FCCCHR 9th Edition Test Procedures

Please check periodically to verify that your testing is agreement with (these) approved test procedures.

"The importance of complete and accurate records documenting that backflow prevention devices have been inspected, tested routinely, and kept in good working order can not be over emphasized"

Mr. Robert Lashlee, P.E.

Test & Repair Tips

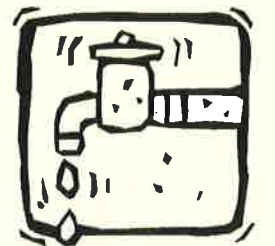
Q: What is the 3-PSI Buffer?

A: the 3.0 psi buffer is the difference between the readings of the first check valve and the relief valve opening point. This is designed into the assembly so that small fluctuations of line pressure do not cause the relief valve to discharge. The intermittent discharge of water may be considered a nuisance. An assem-

bly which maintains a 3.0 psi buffer or greater is less likely to discharge due to pressure fluctuations. *USC 9th Edition Manual* (an assembly that does not maintain a 3psi buffer does not necessarily fail the test procedure)

Q: When repairing a backflow preventer is it ok to flip a check valve disc over to get a good test?

A: To flip the disc is essentially the same as using a "used part". When any part of the backflow preventer is damaged it is necessary to replace the part with the original manufacturer's replacement parts. Any repair should leave the assembly in a properly operating condition so that it will continue to provide backflow protection. *USC CrossTalk Winter '97*



More tips next Issue!

Third Annual Conference
of the
Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association
March 12, 1998 , Jackson, Tennessee



Photos courtesy of Grady & Mary Gentry

President's Message continued...

(Continued from page 1)
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE UPDATE

The International Conference of the ABPA was held April 26-30, in Tempe, Arizona. The first day of this years conference was devoted to committee and organizational meetings. One of the best items to come out of these meetings was the announcement by the Association that it will be publishing public education material this year in the form of a coloring book called Buster Backflow. Please see the upcoming ABPA News for more details. Another public education item present at the Conference was the Michigan Chapter's video

called "Mission - Educating the Public". This is a good video to use in your public education programs. You may contact Ron Chapman of the Michigan Chapter for more details or to order this video.

There were also a couple of interesting sessions on backflow incidents, including one documented incident from a fire department in Charlotte, North Carolina. Another interesting session was devoted to the AWWA Research Foundations report on backflow protection and fire protection systems. This presentation was also given by Jack Poole at the 1998 Tennessee Conference. Additional information

may be obtained by contacting the AWWA Research Foundation. (Please see article below)

The Tennessee Chapter was awarded the prestigious PACE Award at the Conference, one of only a few that received the award this year. This award recognizes ABPA Chapters that excel with a positive impact on the membership, the profession and the community.

(Editor's Note: Dave Kellogg, TBPA President, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation at the Conference for his contribution to the industry. Congratulations Dave!)



Fire Sprinkler System Report Published

The American Water Works Association Research Foundation has published the final report titled "Impact of Wet-Pipe Fire Sprinkler Systems on Drinking Water Quality". The publication is a 390 page comprehensive report that cumulates an eighteen month study sponsored by the AWWA Research Foundation. The study included Class 1 and Class 2 wet-pipe fire sprinkler systems

in the jurisdiction of thirty water purveyors. In addition to actual sampling of the water contained in the wet systems, researchers performed information surveys, on-site interviews and a risk assessment analysis. The objective of the project was to determine the impact of wet-pipe fire sprinkler systems, and to determine if a public hazard will exist in the event of backflow from the fire

system into a drinking water system. Poole Fire Protection Engineering, Inc., was selected as one of the engineering firms to participate in this study. Jack Poole, P.E., is the current ABPA Vice-President. An in-depth review of this report will be included in the upcoming TBPA Backflow News.

The publication can be purchased for \$150 non-members, and \$125 for AWWA members.

Phone the AWWA at 303-794-7711

"There are several documented cases where contamination of the potable water system has been caused by the fire sprinkler system" AWWARF Impact of Wet-Pipe Fire Sprinkler Systems on Drinking Water Quality. Pg. 53.

USC Foundation Training Videotape Available

The USC Foundation is offering for sale a videotape titled "FIELD TESTING OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLIES". This new video demonstrates the 9th Edition Field Test Procedures for testing of the RP, DC, and PVB. Testing and troubleshoot-

ing are enhanced by the use of computer animation, allowing the viewer to see into the inside of the assembly during each test.. This tape sells for \$25 and is available from the USC Foundation, phone 213-740-2032, fax 213-740-8399, or connect to the website for more

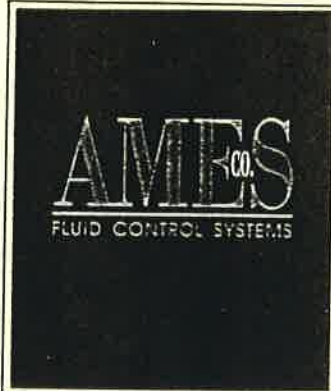
information.

USC Foundation is on the web at usc.edu/dept/fccchr. All information with the exception of the approved list is available to the public. Links to other interesting home pages are also available.

The USC Foundation has many other training tools available that you might be interested in.

Advertisements

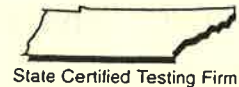
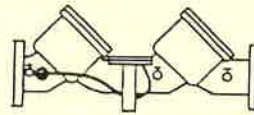
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Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association

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