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Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association
Angel Golke, Secretary
c/o City of Clarksville
1030 Pumping Station Rd
Clarksville, TN 37040

TBPA



Tennessee Backflow News

Winter 2002



**NEXT
MEETING**

6:00 PM
Wednesday
March 6, 2002
Radisson
Hotel Lobby,
Memphis, TN

Directions to
Conference Inside

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Bylaws Proposed Changes and Ballot See Insert

2002 Conference Memphis

Join us in the Blues Capital of the South!

The seventh annual Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association Conference will be held in Memphis, TN, on Thursday and Friday, March 7th & 8th 2001. The conference will be as last year a day and a half.

The Conference will be held at the Radisson Hotel Downtown Memphis. Situated in the heart of downtown Memphis, the Radisson hotel is the heart of the Memphis celebration. It places you in walking distance to all that the great city has to offer. The hotel is adjacent to the Peabody Place/Beale Street Entertainment District as well as AutoZone Park, home of the Memphis Redbirds Baseball. The hotel is at walking distance from the Civil Rights Museum, BB Kings, Hard Rock Cafe, Elvis Presley and many other popular Memphis venues, including the famous Rendezvous Ribs restaurant and the Peabody hotel, where the Peabody ducks greet visitors every afternoon. Only minutes from Graceland, the Southland Greyhound Park and Mud Island the hotel is at the heart of it all.



See inside for Registration Forms and Conference Fees The Conference promises to be one of our best located in a city full of things to see and do.

President's Message

Larry Stinnett

I can't believe another year has come and gone. Time stands still for nothing. It's exciting to watch the Board of Directors work. This past week we had a called business meeting in Murfreesboro, for the purpose of helping with the annual conference and the first reading of three bylaw changes. The membership should be proud of the board of directors. The conference committee has put together an excellent conference. I urge every member and prospective member to attend. The slate of speaker is second to none. I am asking every member to return the voting ballot on the proposed bylaw changes. Please take time and vote. Be part of your association. We need your support. I feel the membership should be involved in every aspect of the Tennessee Backflow Association. I look forward to seeing all of you at the conference in Memphis. If we work together this new year will be a big success. With everyone pulling in the same direction we will have the best association in the country. I would like to take this opportunity in advance to thank Grady Gentry and the rest of the conference committee for what I believe to be an excellent conference.

By Law Changes

Ballots for bylaw changes are inside. Ballots must be received by March 5, 2002 by mail or hand-delivered on March 7, 2002 at the annual conference.

Upcoming Events

- March 6, 2002 – TBPA Meeting – Memphis, TN
- March 7-8, 2002-TBPA Annual Conference-Memphis, TN
- May 4-8, 2002 – 18th Annual ABPA International Conference, Savannah, GA
- April 28– May 1, 2003-19th Annual ABPA International Conference, Detroit, MI
- October, 2003-TBPA Annual Conference-Nashville, TN

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association



Name	Affiliation	Phone # e-mail	Fax #
Larry Stinnett, President	Backflow Specialty Company, Inc. Powell, TN	615-451-5922 backfosp@aol.com	615-452-0568
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Lori Bachus, Treasurer	Tennessee America Chattanooga, TN	423-755-7601 lbachus@amwater.com	423-755-7632
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Ron Chapman	ABPA President	313-337-1241 Ri_chapman@hotmail.com	313-322-4122

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. 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 continue to help shape the future of this industry in Tennessee.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements in this publication are not necessarily those endorsed or supported by the TBPA. The content of this newsletter is not to be considered as legal or professional advice. **Dues are \$45 annually**, and are payable to the TBPA Treasurer. Annual dues include \$15 for Tennessee and \$30 for National ABPA dues. National membership is required for Tennessee membership.

The TBPA Treasurer address is:

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association
Lori Bachus, TBPA Treasurer
c/o TAWC, PO Box 6338 Chattanooga, TN 37402

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

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association
Attn: Angel Goike, Secretary
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1030 Pumping Station Rd
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TBPA/ABPA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association
American Backflow Prevention Association

NAME: _____

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ABPA DUES: \$30.00
TBPA DUES: 15.00
ANNUAL DUES TOTAL: \$45.00

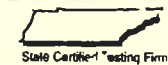
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Lori Bachus
c/o TAWC
PO Box 6338
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*Includes bi-monthly ABPA News Magazine
and quarterly Tennessee Backflow News
Pre-payment of dues required to process application.
Membership is non-transferable. National ABPA membership
required for state TBPA membership*

TBN Tuesday.

Advertisements

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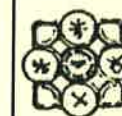
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MIKE TRIGG
Training Coordinator

P.O. Box 78572
225 Ben Allen Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37207

Home: 360-8426
Office: 254-1104





Spotlight:
(the following article will be presented in sections in the next three issues of the TBPA Newsletter)



The Essentials of A Cross Connection Control Program

There are several elements necessary for a valid cross connection control program. These elements can be summarized under the following headings.

- *Authority (Spring Issue)
- *Backflow Preventers (Spring Issue)
- *Certified Testers and Specialist
- *Defensible and Detailed Records
- *Education and Training

Defensible and Detailed Records

Records

Another important aspect of cross-connection control program is record keeping. Records must be retained for a specific period of time. Some states have specific requirements for this. Other areas go by the statute of limitations on any action which may be brought against the administrative authority for failing to administer a viable cross-connection control program. But retaining the records for a certain period of time is only one aspect of record keeping. Records must be detailed and defensible. The records must contain specific information which supports the actions of the administrative authority. A sample of some of the items which must be maintained in the records follows; service address, owner address, degree of hazard on property, location of assemblies, sizes, field test results of the assemblies, types of equipment on the premises. This is obviously a small sample of some of the items needed to be maintained in the records. More detail is better than less.

The records must be "defensible". That means the records should be sufficient to show that the administrative authority is doing all they can to carry out an effective cross-connection control program. Should, for example, there be a backflow incident in the jurisdiction, the administrative authority needs to be able to show through their records, that they have done all they could to survey sites, install approved backflow prevention assemblies and require regular testing of these assemblies. If the records are insufficient to do this, it could leave the administrative authority in a difficult position.

Education and Training

Education and Training are probably two of the most important aspects of any cross-connection control program. As these are discussed it will be evident why these are so important.

Education

Education will be discussed first. Education is important to every aspect of the cross-connection control program. First of all the staff of the administrative authority must be educated. Specific training for specific personnel will be discussed in the following text, but education of all personnel in a general manner is very important. The concepts of backflow, what a cross-connection is, how water from a customer's premise can get into the potable water supply are important concepts to, at least, introduce to all personnel. This isn't so that all personnel can become experts and handle all sorts of cross-connection problems. But it certainly helps when personnel are familiar with some concepts and know to who people should be referred when certain situations arrive. This is also helpful in the overall aspects of carrying out a cross-connection control program. Here is an example. Personnel in a particular water agency are briefly introduced to some of the concepts of cross connection control.

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from page 4)

The meter readers, repair personnel, and anyone having a field job are requested to inform the cross-connection control program specialist of any potential hazards they happen to notice at facilities that may warrant a cross-connection control field survey. Someone on a repair job notices that a facility seems to be changing and large pieces of equipment are being brought into the facility. When the program specialist makes inquiries, it is determined that the facility has totally changed the type of work being conducted, and will now be using contaminants under pressure for various processes and now needs to have a reduced pressure principle assembly. This is just one example, and hopefully, this type of change would be picked up through permitting process, for any remodeling or modification to the plumbing system. However, one must be aware that permits are not always pulled on every change that is made, even if it is a sizable change.

Education is also a very important public relations tool. As those who have been involved in cross-connection control for any length of time will testify, public relations is a big part of the job. Whenever a customer is going to be required to spend money on anything, even if it is to protect the public health, public relations are necessary to help the process go smoothly. When requiring a customer to install a backflow preventer, it may not be easy to convince the customer of the need for the assembly. Some administrative authorities have taken the position of, "well, fine, if you don't want to install a backflow preventer, then get your water from someone else, because you're not getting any more from me." Although it may be one way of expressing the importance of the program, this method does not generally help build up public support for the program.

Education, on the other hand, will certainly help convince the customer of their need to reduce their risk and increase their ability to help protect the potable water system. As the customer has a better understanding of what cross-connection control is all about, they can become an ally in preventing further cross-connection from being created at their facility and also in helping other customers in the jurisdiction accept the program. The fifteen-minute video, Working Together for Safe Water and the informational brochure by the same title are great tools for the administrative authority to use in providing the public and their own personnel a general education on cross-connection control.

Training

Although training and education sound very similar, there is a distinct difference. Training is used to train personnel in how to carry out specific tasks. While discussing the certification process training was briefly discussed. As mentioned in that section the Foundation's training courses do not grant the attendee "certifications". They do, however, provide for a great training experience. Those individuals that are being certified to test backflow preventers must first be given some sort of training. This is not just to "pass the exam", but to know how to test and diagnose problems with each of the backflow preventers. Just as in the certification exam, hands-on experience is necessary. Whatever type of training is used it is important that the individuals have the opportunity to learn the actual testing procedure with a backflow preventer in front of them. They also need the opportunity to practice the field test themselves with operating backflow preventers. Obviously the level of instruction is critical to the value of the course. Instructors must be extremely well versed in all aspects of materials covered in the course. They must also be effective communicators. The training for a cross-connection control program specialist must include information and instruction on such items as policies and procedures, rules and regulations, record keeping, public relations, and site surveys. Actual site surveys as a training exercise will help any student understand the significance of a site survey. There is really no substitute for this type of real world experience.

Many members of the foundation avail themselves of the Foundation's training courses. The Foundation has put a tremendous amount of effort into creating these courses to meet the recommendations listed above.

With these five elements in place, a cross connection control program is going to be very effective. The Foundation staff is always available to help members in any of these areas.

Excerpted from *Cross Talk*, published by the Foundation for Cross Connection Control and Hydraulic Research of the University of Southern California 1999. Copyright University of Southern California. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

TBPA Conference 2002

Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association



The Seventh Annual Conference of the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association will be held at the beautiful Radisson Hotel in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. It is next door to the Peabody Hotel and Peabody Plaza. Only four blocks from the Pyramid the home of the Grizzlies.

We promise you a day and a half of information and education. Topics will provide you with the knowledge and tools to assist your backflow prevention and cross connection control efforts.

- Rae Ann Brammer nationally known attorney will speak at two combined sessions, the liability of the tester repairman and the liability of the water purveyor.
- Mike Lueck, Midwest Instruments, national representative will give a presentation concerning test kit certification and repairs.
- Bill Hunt know as Mr. Backflow of Memphis will have a session on thermal expansion.
- Lloyd Rainey will show us the do's and don'ts of backflow installations.
- **Larry Stinnett**, owner of Backflow Specialist Company, past President of ABPA and currently President of TBPA, will speak on fire systems.
- The TBPA Awards for Excellence will be presented during a dinner banquet on Thursday evening.
- The best backflow trades show in Tennessee, with all the manufacturers and vendors.
- CEU credits toward any water, wastewater, collection or distribution certificate.

TBPA Conference 2002	
Thursday and Friday, March 7 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM and March 8 from 8:00 to 12:00	
Radisson Hotel Downtown, Memphis, Tennessee	
Name: _____	<i>Before March 1st:</i>
Company: _____	TBPA Member - \$100 _____
Address/St/Zip: _____	Non-Member - \$150 _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____	<i>Registrations received after</i>
e-mail: _____ T-shirt Size _____	<i>March 1st add \$25</i> _____
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TBPA Conference 2002 – c/o MLGW, Kevin Poe, P.O. Box 430, Memphis, TN 38104.	
<i>For more info contact Eddie O'Neill (eoneill@jaxenergy.com) at (731)422-7214</i>	

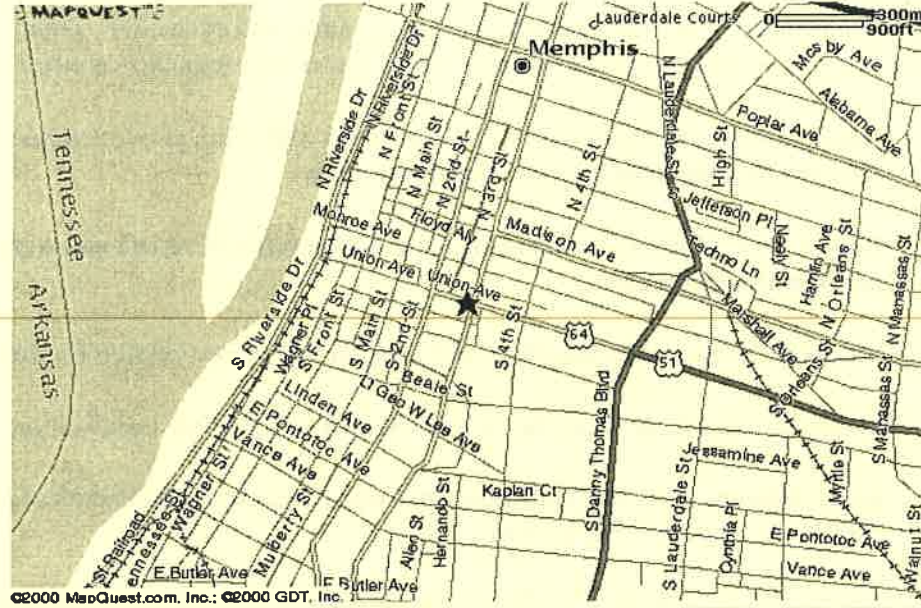
Here's how to get there:

From Nashville take I-40 across I-240 that runs into Broad St.; turn left onto E Parkway; turn right on Union Ave. to downtown and the Radisson.

For more info contact either:
 Grady Gentry 731-286-4271 (gmgentry@bellsouth.net) or
 Eddie O'Neill 731-422-7214 (eoneill@jaxenergy.com)

Reservations must be made by **Friday, March 1, 2002**. The specials rates for Thursday and Friday are **\$84 a night**. You must tell them you are with **Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association** to receive discount.

To make room reservation call 1-800-333-3333 or 901-528-1800 Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (CST).



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, March 7, 2002

7:30 – 8:30 Registration
 8:30 – 9:00 Opening Session
 9:00 – 9:45 Callen Hayes-MLGW's Program
 9:45 – 10:00 Break
 10:00 – 10:45 Brent Ogles
 10:45 – 11:00 Break
 11:00 – 11:45 Larry Stinnett – Fire Systems
 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch (on your own)
 1:00 – 2:30 Rae Ann Brammer – Liabilities
 2:30 – 3:00 Break
 3:00 – 3:45 Lloyd Rainey
 3:45 – 4:00 Door Prizes and Announcements
 4:00 – 6:00 Free Time
 6:00 – 7:00 Social Hour (Cash Bar)
 7:00 – 8:30 Awards Dinner and Entertainment

Friday, March 8, 2002

8:30 – 9:00 Registration
 9:00 – 9:45 Mike Lueck – Test Kits
 9:45 – 10:00 Break
 10:00 – 10:45 Bill Hunt-Thermal Expansion
 10:45 – 11:30 David Draughon-DWS
 11:30 – 12:00 Closing Session and Door Prizes

Tennessee Training Calendar

- **The Tennessee Association of Utility Districts (TAUD):** Cross Connection Renewal Classes for Municipalities and Basic Cross Connection Training Classes for contractors are available. Other classes may be available. Call Greg Baker at TAUD, 615-896-9022 for further information.
- **Memphis Light, Gas & Water (MLGW):** Classes are held in the greater Memphis Tennessee area on an annual basis. Call 901-528-4720 for further information.
- **Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 572,** Nashville, Tennessee: 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 Angel Goike at 931-553-2489*



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Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation – Cross Connection Control Training Classes

Fleming Training Center
 2022 Blanton Drive
 Murfreesboro, TN 37129
 615-898-8090

The classes offered by the Fleming Training Center are free of charge to any person who wishes to attend. Written registration is required, however, a minimum of thirty days in advance of the class. Confirmation letters for all classes/seminars will be sent out to registrants approximately three weeks prior to class and will contain pertinent details regarding exact location, class content, and materials. For information on class content for Cross Connection Control Workshops call Mr. Brent Ogles at 615-898-8090.

Cross Connection Control Workshop (BASIC) (4 days) (Textbook: None) Classes are at the Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro unless otherwise indicated.

January 15-18, 2002	March 12-15, 2002
April 23-26, 2002 (Knoxville)	May 21-24, 2002 (Kingsport)
June 4-7, 2002	June 25-28, 2002 (Jackson)
July 16-19, 2002	August 20-23, 2002 (Kingsport)
September 10-13, 2002 (Knoxville)	October 15-18, 2002
November 12-15, 2002	

Cross Connection Control Workshop (RENEWAL) (2 days) (Textbook: None) Classes are at the Fleming Training Center in Murfreesboro unless otherwise indicated.

February 6-7, 2002	April 22-23, 2002 (Knoxville)
May 20-21, 2002 (Kingsport)	June 24-25, 2002 (Jackson)
July 22-23, 2002	August 19-20, 2002 (Kingsport)
September 9-10, 2002 (Knoxville)	December 4-5, 2002

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All for One and One for All

By: Wayne Cook, Shelbyville



Being a new member of TBPA, you would think that the best thing for me to do is to keep my mouth shut and try to learn as much as I can from others that have been in this business longer than I have. Well, I learned very quickly that people in this business want and need, everyone to open up and discuss anything and everything that pertains to the cross-connection control program. This is one of the ways that we can pass on information and help each other.

The water department that I work for is like any other water department that has to deal with problems that come with having an ongoing cross connection control program. One of the biggest complaints that I have heard is that the cross connection coordinator/inspector/tester does not have the time to do the necessary work. This will always be a problem until a commitment is made by the UTILITIES to devote adequate resources to the cross connection control program. Shelbyville Power, Water & Sewerage System made that commitment and the cross connection control program that we have, has grown and become stronger. One of the first things that we learned was that we were not alone and that others have gone through the same problems that we were having. All we had to do was ask and the answers were there for us. The sharing of information is the best way to cut down on the mistakes that we all make. **If someone else has done it wrong, why should we do it wrong again?** The Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association has been a world of information for me. Their wonderful staff and officers will help anyway that they can. All you need to do is ask.

Let me tell you about a project that we, the Utility Companies in our county, have started. We get together once a month and look at the cross connection control program as a group. We are defining our goals and understanding each other's needs. By coming together we are able to see that not only will we benefit, but that our customers and the contractors that are doing the work within the county will benefit.

Some of the subjects that this group is working on are:

1. We are defining the application and type of device that the customer needs to install for the amount of protection that is needed.
2. Public information can be sent to or given out and the cost can be shared by all the utilities.
3. List of contractors with the name of the contact person and the company telephone number can be consolidated and given to our customers.

Example of #1: **Animal Hospital/Clinic-needs to install a RPBP on the main water line before any splits.** A contractor will be able to take this information and know any animal hospital/clinic type of business, anywhere in the county, will have to install a RPBP, not any other type of backflow device, regardless of which water utility is supplying the water.

We learned that it is better and more helpful to everyone, since we all share the same command goals, to share information. It really is **One for All and All for One.** We are under the same rules and regulations and dealing with the same type of problems. So I will let you in on a little secret. The Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association is here to help you with information, guidance, or even an ear to listen to your woes. From the President all the way down thru the Directors to each and every one of us that is in the cross connection control program, will be willing and able to assist you. I know first hand what it means to be a member of the TBPA. They have helped this person more times than once and I know they will continue to assist Shelbyville Power, Water & Sewerage, and **ME.**

TBPA INFO

Highlights of January 25, 2002 Board Meeting

- *Discussion of bylaws changes, that are including with is newsletter for member review and vote.
- *2002 Conference agenda finalized, please see enclosed registration form.
- *Next board meeting will be held the evening prior to the annual conference, on March 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the hotel lobby. All members are encouraged to attend.