January 2003

Volume 2, Issue 1

THE GROUP
Western Washington Cross Connection Prevention Professionals
P.O. Box 94551 Seattle, WA 98124
www.backflowgroup.org

Spokane Regional Cross Connection Control Committee
P.O. Box 13086 Spokane, WA 99213
www.src4.org

The Newsletter

FIRST-TIME NEWSLETTER READERS

For our first time readers, we would like to provide some information about our Newsletter. The Spokane Regional Cross Connection Control Committee (SRC4) and Western Washington Cross Connection Prevention Professionals (aka "The Group") publish it. Currently, we are publishing two newsletters a year, which we provide at no charge to all our Cross Connection Control (CCC) certified people in Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho (about 3300). The costs of printing and mailing are offset by various Vendor advertising, SRC4 and "The Group". We rely on volunteers for articles and assistance to produce the newsletter, except for printing and mailing.

Although there are several National, PNW, Regional and local CCC Associations, committees, groups, etc., most certified CCC people in the PNW are not members of any of these organizations, therefore, they are not "in the know" as to current CCC information. It is important that all CCC people be kept abreast with proposed and actual changes in regulations, test procedures, training opportunities, general CCC information to increase their knowledge, contacts for assistance, etc. For these reasons, the Newsletter was created.

SRC4 and The Group are very similar. SRC4 was formed in 1986, with The Group beginning in 1992. The committees are made up of Cross Connection Specialists (CCS); water purveyors; BATs; public health officials; building inspectors; CCC educators; irrigation, fire suppression and plumbing contractors; backflow related Vendors; Engineers; etc.

The goals of the committees are to educate many; establish continuity of requirements and installation standards; act as a resource center; increase public awareness; and to assist implementation of CCC programs.

"The Group" meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at various locations in the Washington I-5 corridor. Membership is $10.00 a year. For membership and more information contact their website; www.backflowgroup.org or write to: The WWCCPP Group, P.O. Box 94551, Seattle, WA 98124.

SRC4 meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in Spokane. Membership is $20.00 a year. For membership and more information, contact SRC4 at: (509) 755-9011, email dwl@mewco.com or at their website: www.src4.org.

Whether you reside in Western or Eastern Washington, you are fortunate to have the opportunity to become an active participant in one of the two most progressive and recognized regional CCC groups in America. Both groups are incorporated and non-profit educational organizations.

If you would like to submit an article for the Newsletter, have questions, or comments contact Bill Roe, Newsletter Editor, at email: mrroe@aimcomm.net.

BAT Instructor's Workshop Notes

Sight Tube and Bleed Off Valve

By: Denny Lopp, SRC4

As an instructor of Backflow Assembly Testing (BAT) Certification Workshops, Refresher and Advanced Seminars, I am surprised at the low number of testers utilizing the ***sight-tube*** and ***bleed-off-valve*** when testing DCVA. Most of these testers are unaware of the requirement of using this equipment when testing many DCVA. The procedures require a clear sight tube to be used whenever the test cock (TC) that is downstream of a check valve (CV) being tested is NOT located at the highest point of the check valve body (i. e. TC #3 when testing CV #1). When utilizing the ***sight-tube*** static differential water pressure (PSID) across the CV is determined by the centerline of the test kit held at water level in the ***sight-tube***. In addition to being required in many situations, the ***sight-tube*** offers many advantages:

1. There is no question as to the reference point for determining the correct PSID across a CV (the water level in the sight tube is the reference point).
2. It simplifies reference points for vertical installations.
3. In small irrigation vaults, the tube can raise the reference point to or above ground level.
4. It eliminates the question of whether there is flow into the assembly due to #1 or #2 shut off valve (SOV) leaks.
5. Using the ***bleed-off-valve*** and **sight-tube** flow into the assembly may be compensated to obtain an accurate PSID across the CV.
6. Using the ***sight-tube*** and ***bleed-off-valve*** can also be used to compensate for SOV leakage when testing PVBA and SVBA.

BATs wishing to satisfy their Professional Growth in WA are required to use the ***bleed-off-valve*** and ***sight-tube***, if the DCVA they are testing requires the use of this equipment. Therefore, prior to taking their exam, they need to review the WA DOH test procedures and be prepared to use this equipment. ***NOTE:*** For additional information consult the 9th Edition of FCCC&HR Manual of Cross Connection Control, Section 9 for DCVA, PVBA and SVBA detailed illustrated drawings and procedures utilizing the ***sight-tube*** and ***bleed-off-valve.***

An additional advantage of the ***sight-tube*** is it may be able to "field" check your test kit for accuracy. If your test kit is indicating less than 1.0 PSID across one or more CV, your test kit may not be accurate (this is common on some test kits). In order to accomplish this procedure, a sight tube that extends at least 27" above the centerline of the CV is required. Attach the tube to the TC upstream of the CV being used for the test gauge field test. For this example we will use CV#1. Attach tube to TC #2. Fill tube to a level of 27 3/4" above centerline of CV#1 (a column of water open to the atmosphere at a height of 27 3/4" = 1.0 PSID at it's base). Isolate the assembly. Open TC#3 and then open TC#2. If the column of water maintains 27 3/4" or more and the test kit reading was less then 1.0 PSID, the test kit may not be accurate. Therefore, the test kit MUST be verified for accuracy by a certified lab, before testing additional backflow prevention assemblies.

"Field" checking a test kit using the above method is only an indication that the test kit may not be accurate. In addition, this method for field checking a gauge shall not be used for testing backflow assemblies. It is strictly prohibited! Only those procedures approved for use in WA, OR and ID shall be used.

Clear **sight tubes** and **bleed off valves** can be purchased from various backflow assembly vendors. They include but are not limited to: Branom Instruments, BAVCO, & Combraco.

The **sight-tube** and **bleed-off-valve** are required when testing many of the assemblies in the PNW. In addition, this equipment enables the testers to increase their options to obtain an accurate PSID across a CV and adds professionalism to their testing.

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL COMMITTEES

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PNWS-AWWA Cross Connection Control Committee
February 5, 2003
Spokane, WA

WASHINGTON

Spokane Regional Cross Connection Control Committee
(SRC4). 3rd Tuesday 11:30am – 1:30pm
Contact: Denny Lopp (509) 755-9011
Email dwl@mewco.com

Western Washington Cross Connection Prevention Professionals Group (The Group). 3rd Wednesday
10:00am-12:00noon
Contact Roger Nottage (253) 848-5519
email fruitlandwater@qwest.net

OREGON

Oregon Chapter ABPA
Garrett Yates, President
(503) 255-1619 Fax: (503) 255-1220
E-mail: bmibackflow@mindspring.com

Testing the Double Check Valve Assembly

Excerpted from Cross Talk *published by the FCCC&HR at USC, 2001 ©USC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.*

When field testing the double check valve assembly, one obtains a reading on the first check valve and then takes a reading on the second check valve. In most cases, the tester may continue on to test the second check valve after testing the first check valve, even if the first check valve holds at a value below the minimum value of 1.0 psi. The exception to this is when the reading on the number one check valve is less than 1.0 psi AND the #1 shutoff valve leaks. Under these conditions, repairs must be made before continuing on to test the #.2 check valve.

The Ninth Edition of the Manual of Cross-Connection Control, in Section 9.3.3.2,Test T2, states:

After adjusting the bleed-off valve so that there is a slight drip at the #3 test cock, record the reading on the gage as the static pressure drop across the #1 check valve. This reading should be greater than or equal to 1.0 psi …if the reading is less than 1.0 psi, the #1 check valve must be repaired and retested before proceeding to test #2.

What many testers don't understand is why the test must be stopped at this point to repair the check valve, when at other times the tester may go on and test the second check valve. One needs to look at the entire test in order to understand the reasoning. While testing the # 2 check valve the tester may encounter one of three scenarios. After the first check valve has been tested, the high-pressure hose of the gage is moved to the #3 test cock and the sight tube (if needed) is moved to the #4 test cock. The #1 shutoff valve is reopened to repressurize the assembly. The sight tube is filled and the air is bled from the gage. Then the #1 shutoff valve is closed once again. With the gage at the same level as the water in the sight tube, the # 4 test cock is opened. At this point one of three things will happen. The water in the sight tube will remain steady, recede or overflow from the sight tube. We are interested in the third scenario, when the water in the sight tube overflows.

Section 9.3.3.2 of the Ninth Edition at T5 states:

If at Test #2 step d water continues to flow from the #4 test cock, one of the shutoff valves is leaking. Observe the reading on the gage, but do not record it at this time. Open the bleed-off valve. If it is not possible to adjust the bleed-off valve to allow a slight drip at the #4 test cock, the #1 shutoff valve should be checked to make sure it is closed tight. Then proceed to step T8.

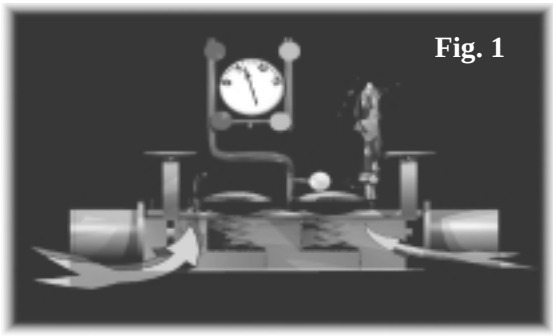


Fig. 1

Skipping to T8 we find:

If, after checking the tightness of the #1 shutoff valve, it is possible to adjust the bleed-off valve so there is a slight drip from the #4 test cock, record the reading on the gage as the static pressure drop across the #2 check valve and return to test #2 step f. If it is not possible to adjust the bleed-off valve so that the water flowing from the #4 test cock is a slight drip, proceed to step T9.

Moving on to T9:

If it is not possible to adjust the bleed-off valve so that the water flowing from the #4 test cock is a slight drip, and if check valve #1 was holding less than 1.0 psi in Test #1, the #1 check valve must be repaired before testing the #2 check Valve. Then, return to Test #1 step a. Otherwise go to step T10.

Finally at step T10:

If check valve #1.was holding 1.0 psi or more in Test #1, close the bleed-off valve and open the #2 test cock. Record the reading on the gage as the static pressure drop across the #2 check valve and return to Test #2 step f.

The important point to note is that the tester is not able to complete the test under the above circumstances if the first check held below 1 psi and there was a leaking #1 shutoff valve. To understand the

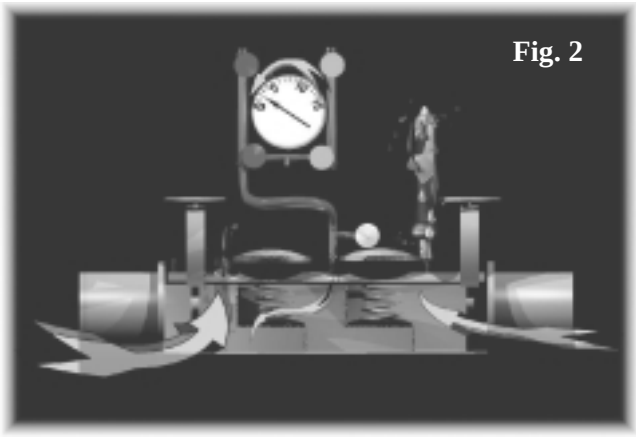


Fig. 2

reasoning behind this requirement, let 's look at what is being done in step T10. Water is flowing from the sight tube at the #4 test cock. After observing the reading, opening the bleed-off valve arrangement does not compensate for an upstream leak. Then the bleed-off valve arrangement is closed and the #2 test cock opened. This is done in an attempt to get an accurate reading on the #2 check valve, even though water is flowing from the sight tube. If the water was flowing from an upstream shutoff valve leak, one should have been able to compensate for it, during the test of the #1 check valve. So, water must be coming from the downstream shutoff valve with backpressure. However, to make sure that no water is flowing through the second check valve while we take a reading, we open the #2 test cock fully. This bypasses any water from a leaking #1 shutoff valve to atmosphere at the #2 test cock. By doing this, leakage from both shutoff valves will be diverted so that check valve #2 may be tested.

From Test # 1 we know the Number one check valve holds at least 1 psi, the #1 check valve must be closed, since just upstream of the check valve is open to atmospheric pressure. With the #4 test cock, just downstream of the second check valve also open to atmosphere, the reading on the gage (while held at the level of the water in the sight tube) gives us the differential pressure across the # 2 check valve, as shown in Figure 1. If, in the above scenario, the #1 check valve was not holding the water trapped between the two-check valves may leak backwards and out through the open #2 test cock. Once this pressure leaks away, the remaining gage reading will falsely indicate the condition of the #2 check. This is shown in Figure 2.

From a pure technical sense, the 2nd check may be evaluated accurately providing the 1st check holds any value above 0.0, even a failing value of 0.1 to 0.9 psid. But now, the absolute accuracy of a tester 's gage at the low end of the scale would be critical. So that the accuracy of a gage near 0.0 would not impact the field test procedure, the MRC decided to require that the cut off point must be 1.0 or greater. This would provide a reasonable safety factor so that the tester would accurately assess the condition of both check values, even if both shutoff valves leak.

Hopefully, this helps explain why it is necessary to stop the test and repair the #1 check valve when the #1 check valve reading is less than one and there is a leaking #1 shutoff valve.

STATE HEALTH CONTACTS

IDAHO

CCC Program Manager - Joan Thomas (208) 373-0275 FAX (208) 373-0409

OREGON

Roscoe Lawless (503) 373-7201

WASHINGTON

CCC Program Manager - Terri Notestine (360) 236-3133
Email terri.notestine@doh.wa.gov

State Approved List – Marsha Carlton (360) 236-3161 (800) 521-0323

BAT Certification – David Kingsley (800) 562-0858
Operator Certification (800) 525-2536

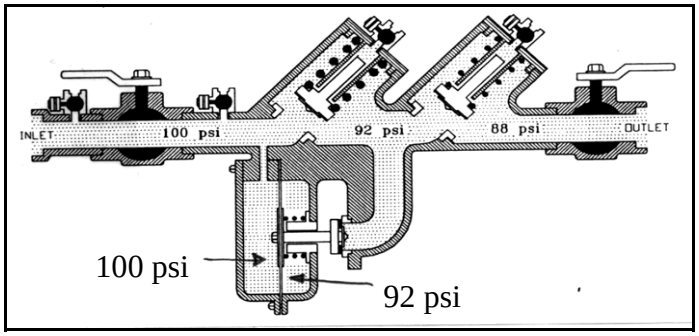
The Newsletter Editors want to take this opportunity to say Thank You to the Advertisers you see in this publication!
Their Support for this Newsletter is very much appreciated and welcomed!
Contact these Vendors. They offer information and resources that are invaluable to this Industry.

BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY REPAIR Part 3

By: Jim Purzycki, BAVCO

In our last article, we described how an RP reacts when components of the assembly are not working properly. These conditions can be identified by performing the proper field test procedures. There are other circumstances where a BAT could make a wrong diagnosis when testing an RP if not careful. Lets review a couple to see what errors to avoid.

One of the most common testing errors is a misdiagnosis of a second check of an RP. When testing the second check of an RP, we are performing a backpressure test. The test requires us to divert the high pressure from the high side hose of our test kit and connect our bypass hose to the #4 test cock and open the bypass valve. When we perform this test, we are taking the higher pressure from the inlet (in our example 100 PSI) and placing it into the lower pressure area downstream of the second check (in our example 88 PSI). As the higher 100-PSI from the inlet, causes the pressure downstream of the 2nd check to rise, the 2nd check disc will close against the seat and embed itself into the 2nd check seat. Depending on the thickness of the disc and the height of the check seat, the area between the 1st & 2nd check will be compressed as the disc is pushed farther into the seat. Water is basically incompressible, so if the disc is compressed the pressure in this area will have to rise. If this increase in pressure in the area between the 2 checks rises to the point where it is equal to the inlet pressure of the assembly minus the relief valve loading, the relief valve will discharge. Many testers at this point make the incorrect assumption that we must have a 2nd check leak since water is discharging from the relief valve. If you remember from our field test procedures when testing the 2nd check, once we get discharge from the relief we are supposed to open the low bleed on our test kit to the point that our reading on our test kit rises above our apparent 1st check differential reading. This will reestablish the working pressure in the area between the 2 check valves. We then close the low bleed and only then can we make a correct assessment of the workings of the 2nd check. If the reading on our gauge begins to fall to the point the relief valve opens, then we are correct in stating that the 2nd check is not holding backpressure. If the gauge reading stays above the relief valve opening point, then we have a working 2nd check. This condition is commonly called disc compression, and the incorrect diagnosis of the condition of the 2nd check, is one of the more common mistakes performed by testers. This mistaken test result is more common in the in-line check design of backflow preventers.



Another common misdiagnosis is when a BAT first arrives at an RP and notices the relief valve is discharging water and assumes the 1st check is not working. Inlet pressure fluctuation can simulate a failed first check if not properly diagnosed. In our example, our RP has an inlet pressure of 100 PSI. Let us further assume we have a 2.0 PSID relief valve opening point. If the pressure on the downstream side of our 1st check is 92 PSI as shown, then the relief valve will stay closed as long as there is higher pressure at the inlet side of our relief valve diaphragm compared to the pressure downstream plus the relief valve loading. So as long as we have an inlet pressure greater than 94 PSI (92 + 2.0 = 94) our relief valve will stay closed. What if our assembly was in a no flow or static condition and we experienced a sudden 7-PSI pressure drop at the inlet of our assembly. Our incoming line pressure suddenly dropped from 100 PSI to 93PSI. In this scenario, we would have 92 PSI downstream of the 1st check plus the

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(Continued from page 5)

Backflow Assembly Repair Part 3

relief valve spring would generate a load of 2.0 so we would have 94 PSI downstream of the relief valve trying to open the relief valve and only 93PSI upstream trying to close the relief valve. This would cause the relief valve to open and discharge. This discharge would continue until the pressure in the area between the 2 check valves is lowered to 90.9PSI. At this point we would once again have more pressure closing the relief valve (93.0) than trying to open it (90.9 + 2.0 = 92.9). The way to confirm if you are experiencing a pressure fluctuation or a failed first check is to hook up your test kit and verify that the gauge needle falls as the pressure fluctuation drops the inlet pressure. If the indicator needle on the gauge stays at the relief valve opening point (in this case 2.0) while water is discharging from the relief valve and does not rise above it, then you can assess you have a failed 1st check valve. If the reading falls to the relief valve opening point and then rises above the relief valve opening point, and the discharge from the relief valve slows down and begins to stop, then you have just experienced a pressure fluctuation. Pressure fluctuations can last for a few seconds or longer, depending on the cause and severity of the pressure fluctuation. If the pressure fluctuates very rapidly, the needle on the gauge could swing very rapidly making it hard to get a correct number reading from our gauge. It is a good idea to isolate the cause of the pressure fluctuation and try to stop or minimize it so that the continual exercising of the relief valve does not pre-maturely cause our RP to need repair.

When repairing an RP, it is important to know how it operates in normal conditions, how it works when subjected to backpressure and backsiphonage, how it works when components fail and also how a misdiagnosis can be made if we are not a careful tester. Before we can repair any assembly, it is important to have correct data on the workings of the assembly to be sure we know what we are fixing and just as importantly, that it really does need to be repaired.

Mistake in Last Issue

There was a mistake in the last issue of the Newsletter. It was the phone number in the Ad for:

Sharper Video Productions.

The last digit in their phone # should have been a seven. The correct phone # is:

(360) 892-2637

10th Annual SRC4 Seminar Coming Up!

The Seminar will be held on **February 6th, 2003** at the Spokane Downtown Doubletree Hotel, 322 N. Spok. Falls Blvd. As in the past, timely topics will be presented by quality Speakers. Various CCC and backflow assy. Manufacturer Reps and related vendors will be displaying their latest products and services. In addition, a 3 1/2 hour session on backflow assembly repair will be offered to the first 30 who sign up for it. If you need it, the Hotel's phone # is 455-9600.

A mock trial, dealing with a serious backflow incident will be presented. Testimony, guilt and possible financial responsibility of the property owner, the backflow assembly installer, the contractor, the tester and the water purveyor will be presented.

Try being the only water purveyor located within 9 different cities!

There will be plenty to do, learn and see. Find the flyer that was sent out to you almost a month ago. There's a **Registration Form** in it. Fill it out and send it in. **You don't want to miss this one!**

If you don't have a Registration form, you can download one from the SRC4 Website (**www.src4.org**). Email us or call (509-755-9011) and we'll make sure you get one.

AND, we've got a new batch of "Limited Edition" SRC4 Hats!!

-SEE YOU THERE-

CCC ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

OREGON

Clackamas Community College (503) 657-6958
Ext. 2388 Web address: depts.clackamas.cc.or.us/west
Cross Connection Control Inspector Certification
Backflow Assembly Certification Course
Tester Re-certification Course
Tester Re-train/Re-certification Course
Inspector Re-certification

EWEB Water Management Services (541) 984-4747
e-mail: jenean.rigney@eweb.eugene.or.us
Cross Connection Control Inspector Certification
Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course
Tester Re-certification Preparation Training
Tester Re-certification Course

Backflow Management, Inc. (503) 255-1619 or (800) 841-7689
Cross Connection Control Inspector Certification
Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course
Backflow Assembly Re-certification
Cross Connection Control Inspector Update

OAWU (503) 873-8353
Cross Connection Inspector Update

Oregon Cross Connection Inspector Subcommittee (541) 267-3128
Backflow Assembly Tester Re-certification

WASHINGTON

Washington Environmental Training Resource Center (WETRC) (800) 562-0858; outside WA (253) 833-9111 Ext. 3369
Backflow Assembly Tester Certification
Backflow Assembly Professional Growth Refresher
Cross Connection Control Exam Review

IDAHO

Bill Thompson United Water Corporation (208) 362-7383
Backflow Assembly Tester Certification
Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher
Cross Connection Control Introduction

Upcoming Cross Connection Control Training

January 24, 2003 - American Backflow Prevention Association, Oregon Chapter, will hold it's Annual Seminar in Wilsonville, OR. For Info/registration contact: Ernie Castro at (502) 691-3098 or Kevin Schmeltzer at (503) 848-3041

February 5, 2003 - PNWS-AWWA CCC Committee will hold their meeting in Spokane, WA 1:30PM - 3:30PM at the Executive Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Convention Center, located at 324 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. All interested people are welcome to attend. Contact is Mr. Chuck Fletcher at (509) 625-7967 or try his email cfletcher@spokanecity.org.

February 6, 2003 - SRC4 10th Annual Seminar will be held in Spokane, WA. For all the info you need call Mr. Denny Lopp at (509) 755-9011 or dwl@mewco.com.

May 4 - 7, 2003 - American Backflow Prevention Association Annual National Conference will be held in Detroit, MI. For info/registration contact Mr. Lynn Shupe. (509) 625-7851 or lshupe@spokanecity.org.

WA BAT PRO-GROWTH DEADLINE NEARS

By: Denny Lopp, SRC4

Washington State Backflow Assembly Testers (BAT) certified prior to January 1, 2001, must satisfy their Professional Growth requirement by December 31, 2003 to retain their certification. With still about 1000 BAT to satisfy this requirement, it appears time will be the biggest obstacle in satisfying this requirement.

In 2003, WETRC plans to schedule 2 BAT Refresher Seminars and exams each week. Even if this training and exams are filled to capacity, it will be tight. To insure you are scheduled, register early. Once scheduled, make sure you keep that date. If you give it up, it may not be possible to secure another.

When it comes time to take the refresher or exam, make sure you are prepared!

Two-day Refresher Seminars are offered prior to most examination dates. The seminar is designed to prepare examinees for the exam. The seminar will review the component parts, test procedures, and trouble shooting of the four types of assemblies. Sufficient time is allotted for "hands on" testing and testing assemblies with simulated failures that the examinee could encounter during the exam. Procedures for filling out test reports are also included.

With only two days to cover all of this material and up to fourteen people in a seminar, the class must move at a fairly good pace. Consequently, there is little time for one on one instruction. To best take advantage of this training, we suggest each participant put forth some effort before attending this seminar. Review the component parts, operation, test procedures and possible failure of each of these assemblies. This will give attendees a "jump start" on the material to be covered and help provide them with the skills and confidence needed to pass the exam.

The exam requires each participant to correctly test a RPBA, DCVA, PVBA and SVBA and correctly fill out a test report for each. The procedures used are those currently approved by DOH. In addition, the examinee must correctly diagnose one of possibly four problems in three of the testable assemblies.

If the examinee makes a total of two mistakes, either testing or diagnosing a failure in the four assemblies, the examinee fails the exam. Testing and diagnosing failures are done without the aid of written procedures and with only the examinee and proctor in the testing area. The examinee has one hour to complete the exam.

In addition, be prepared to use the "sight tube" and "bleed off" valve during your exam. WA DOH test procedures require the use of this equipment whenever the test cock (TC) downstream of the check valve (CV) being tested is not located at the highest point of the check valve body (i.e. TC #3 when testing CV #1). If the DCVA you are testing during your exam meets the criteria for all sight tube and "bleed off valve", be prepared to use this equipment. Consult the current edition of the FCCC & HR Manual for excellent illustrated procedures.

Extra time spent preparing for this exam will pay dividends when taking the exam.

REGISTER EARLY

Backflow Assembly Repair & Maint. Workshops

SRC4 and ABPA are sponsoring one of these Workshops, here in Spokane, WA. The workshop will be presented by Jim Purzycki, of BAVCO, who has been a licensed BAT and plumber for the last 30 years.

For 20 years Jim has served as Manager of BAVCO, a wholesale/retail distributor of assembly repair parts and test equipment. Jim sits on many Committees for many organizations including ABPA, AWWA, Irrigation Association (IA), SRC4 and NRWA.

The one-day Workshops will be held in four different locations. **The first will be here in Spokane on Wed. February 26, 2003** The other three will be in Seattle, Portland, OR and Bend, OR. For information on these workshops, contacts are listed below:

- Spokane - (509) 755-9011, Denny Lopp
- Seattle - (253) 848-5519, Roger Nottage
- Bend - (541) 317-3019, Gary McLaucklin
- Portland - (503) 642-1511, Floyd Hensley

The workshops include detailed knowledge and skills to maintain and repair various backflow assemblies.

This workshop has been held in many areas of the USA and is recognized as the *BEST* of it's kind. Most state approved assemblies will be covered: the small and large as well as the old and the new. A repair outline will be given to each participant with specifications and breakdowns of all assemblies

Good training for Pro-Growth Exam!.

R. Nottage to Lead "THE GROUP" in 2003

Roger Nottage of Fruitland Mutual Water Company, of Puyallup, WA will take over as Chairman of "THE GROUP". Dennis McLaughlin, of Backflow Prevention Services, was elected as Vice Chairman. Larry Holmes, Olympic View Water & Sewer will assume the duties of Secretary for The Group. Doug Bucklin, City of Redmond, will continue on as Treasurer. Congratulations to these fine Gentlemen! A big round of Thanks goes to all for stepping up to the challenges facing The Group in 2003.

We thank Gary Babb (Mechanical Agents) for serving as our Chairman for this last year AND thanks to Bob Eastwood of Seattle Public Utilities for taking care of the Secretary's work for the past 2 years.

WHAT'S IN AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WATER PURVEYOR AND THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY?

By Roger Nottage, The Group

According to a recent survey by the Washington State Department of Health, 22% of the 146 largest water purveyors in the state had negotiated at least one cross connection written agreement with the local administrative authority (LAA) by the end of 2001.

Public water systems reported a total of 240 LAA coordination situations, and of these, only 38 written agreements have been completed. Both WAC 246-290-490 and WAC 51-56 require water purveyors and local administrative authorities respectively to coordinate with each other on cross connection issues. Though not required, written agreements are encouraged to document the coordination.

So, what does an agreement between the water purveyor and the local administrative authority contain? The following are examples of common elements found in existing agreements:

1 Identification of authority and responsibility - who does what, when, where and how.

2 Premise Isolation or In-Premises Protection - Identify which type of protection is to be used. If both are used in combination, identify the division criteria.

3 Identification of Hazard - who makes the determination of hazard and where.

4 Specific assemblies to abate a hazard - which assemblies will be used where.

5 Plan Reviews - Plan reviews can be an asset, accomplished when adequate notification and timeliness is addressed.

6 Inspections - who will inspect what, when, where and how. This includes initial inspections, compliance inspections, complaint inspections, evaluation of existing plumbing, etc.

7 Testing Notice - who will send notices, receive test reports, data entry and record keeping, enforcement, etc.

8 Record Keeping - Provide mutual access to the database.

9 Backflow Incident Investigations and Reporting - who takes the lead when and where. Who has the responsibility to close and file the required reports.

10 Permit Requirements - What permits will be required from whom.

11 Additional interested parties - the local Health Department, the Fire Marshal's office, and other agencies or departments may be included.

(Continued on page 10)

Spokane Regional Cross Connection Control Committee

WORKING TO PROTECT CLEAN, SAFE DRINKING WATER

(Continued from page 9)

12 Joint Meetings - including supervisors and subordinates, joint meetings need to be routine and consistent to keep balance between the forces.

13 Enforcement and Penalties - who does what, when, where and how uniformly.

14 Public Education - mutual support in public meetings and brochures needs to be addressed.

The above list is a starting place to open negotiations between the water purveyor and the local administrative authority. The list is not inclusive, nor do all elements need to be in an agreement to be effective.

Both the water purveyor and the local administrative authority must be aware of their respective jurisdictional authorities, responsibilities and regulatory obligations. Try not to include language that is contrary to, or in conflict with the minimum required elements of WAC 246-290-490.

This is an abbreviated version of the article by Roger Nottage, WWCCPPGroup Chair, which will be posted to websites: www.src4.org and www.backflowgroup.org.

Did You Know...

Vertical installations are allowed only if specifically listed on the current State Approved Backflow Assembly List for this orientation. The list will also require flow to be up or down(some may allow flow in either direction).

First Call for Nominations for Region 7 Director, ABPA

In accordance with the ABPA bylaws, notice is being sent out to all members of the Region.

Names and resumes of the nominees shall be received from current members of the Region at the Association Office until February 15, 2003.

If you have a nomination for the office of Region 7 Director, please contact Lynn Shupe (City of Spokane) at 509-625-7851. Or you can email Lynn at lshupe@spokanecity.org.

SRC4 has the PNWS - AWWA Cross Connection Control Manual , Sixth Edition, on CD!

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