



Western Washington Cross Connection Prevention Professionals

P.O. Box 94551
Seattle, WA 98124

www.backflowgroup.org

The Newsletter



P.O. Box 13086
Spokane, WA 99213

www.src4.org



Oregon Chapter American Backflow Prevention Association

P.O. Box 3570
Tualatin, OR 97062-3570

July 2003

Volume 2, Issue 2

Changes In Oregon Are Happening.... Again

By Floyd Hensley

The Oregon Chapter of the ABPA is going to join "The Group" and SRC4 in sponsoring this Newsletter. If we are able to join in this effort we feel we could reach a lot more folks interested in Cross Connection Control.

Oregon State's Cross Connection program is changing again. As of this writing, Bonnie Waybright has been the CC coordinator since Charmayne Baldwin went back to her old job in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba effective May 31. Roscoe Lawless retired on June 15th.

The new Manager/Supervisor for the Oregon State Cross Connection Control program within the Health Division is Mary Leverette (503) 731-4002 ext. 232.

The new Health Division Cross Connection Control program coordinator is Mary DeFerrari. She starts her job on June 12, 2003.

HB343

As for House Bill 343, we understand that it is in the Oregon Ways and Means Committee with all amendments made. For those of you who are not familiar with HB343 it is a funding bill to allow for a full time Health Division Cross Connection Control Program Manager. As for any funding bills before this legislature it could go either way, when it comes to a vote.

Seminars

The Oregon Chapter of the ABPA has set the date of **January 22, 2004** for the next annual seminar in Wilsonville Or. Please mark your calendars and watch for additional news. If you would like additional information as the

(Continued on page 2)

Denny Lopp Retires From MEWCO

As of June 30, 2003, after forty+ years of employment at Modern Electric Water Company, Denny Lopp retired as Water Superintendent. As part of his appreciation celebration, on June 26, 2003, Modern Electric Water Company held an



open house to give Denny's friends and business associates a chance to wish him a happy retirement. Local people arrived for the event, as well as individuals from Western Washington, and even as far as California. The Western Washington Cross Connection Committee, "The Group", honored Denny by presenting him with an Outstanding Service Award for his Cross Connection work. An additional retirement celebration was held the evening of June 27, 2003 for Denny and Francine Patterson, Executive Secretary who also retired the end of June. This allowed family, friends, current and retired Modern Electric Water Company employees a chance to pay tribute to Denny and Francine, visit and reminisce.

Denny Lopp started his career at Modern Electric Water Company in 1956, during the summer between his freshman and sophomore year, as an irrigation ditch walker. Four months a year, MEWCO hired 4 employees to make sure water was delivered 24 hours a day to irrigation customers. These four ditch walkers were responsible for regulating the amount of water received by the 800+ irrigating customers. They controlled the water by changing the water from track to track that flowed throughout the district. The amount of water received by a property was based on time. So it was not unusual for a ditch walker to leave their rest in the middle of the night or early morning to make changes.

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date gets closer contact Kevin Schmeltzer at 503-848-3041.

The next Quarterly meeting for the Oregon chapter is September 27, 2003 and it will be held in The Dalles. Scheduled for this meeting is a presentation from Wilkins on new assemblies and new updates on existing assemblies. These meetings are open to all ABPA members and those of you who would like to join. For more information contact Arlo Langford by phone at 541-296-5401 ext 2013 or by e-mail arlo.Langford@ci.the-dalles.or.us.

Hope to see you there! (see page 9)

(OCCIRS)

Oregon Cross Connection Inspectors Regional Subcommittee

The 2003-04 officers were installed at the end of our last meeting. They are Dave McDonald (City of Portland) Chair, Vance Voyles (Clackamas River Water) Vice-Chair and Rick Hill (City of Gresham) Sec/Treas. The next meeting will be 8/14/03 in the City of Bend, hosted by Gary McLauchlin. On November 13, 2003 there will be a meeting in the City of Lebanon hosted by Cecil Bridge. For more information contact Rick Hill, City of Gresham at 503-618-2626 or e-mail hill@ci.gresham.or.us.

Be sure to attend these meetings if you want to keep up on the Oregon CCC program!

(Continued from page 1)

Denny performed this duty for four summers. After graduating from Central Valley High School in 1959, Denny enlisted in the Navy.

On March 1, 1963, Denny returned to MEWCO as a meter reader. Thus, beginning a long and successful forty-year career.

In 1993, Denny became Water Superintendent.

Back in 1970, the Washington State Law changed regarding to cross-connection and water quality. Denny, along with 33 other individuals, were the first in the state to be certified in cross-connection control. He went on to develop his knowledge and became an instructor for CCC programs. In 1986, Denny gained national fame with his article on Temperature and Pressure Valves in "Domestic Engineering" magazine. He has served as Director of the Northwest & Alaska Region of the American Backflow Prevention Association, Pacific Northwest American Waterworks Cross-Connection Control Committee, SRC4, and one of the original group of six that started the One-Call System. He is known, as a specialist that keeps our drinking water safe, yet there is another equally successful, but dangerous, side to Denny's life - motorcycles.

Ironically, this other adventure also began in 1963 when Denny started racing dirt track motorcycles. Racing motorcycles, Denny reached speeds up to 130 mph on various dirt tracks throughout the United States. In the 1990s, this hobby became its own dirt track motorcycle business, thus establishing LOPKO Racing. In 2000, LOPKO Racing and Harley Davidson of Missouri teamed up with local professional racer, Joe Kopp and won the AMA National Dirt Track Championship.



Denny accomplished many successes over the years. We are lucky and honored to know him. Most of all, Denny is a wonderful person who has a great sense of humor and is always there to help and support anyone he knows.

Thank You Denny,

We wish you a wonderful retirement!

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Todd Overly
Cell (509) 370-6660



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Fax	

Email: todd@gordonandassoc.com

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL COMMITTEES

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PNWS-AWWA Cross Connection Control Committee
Meeting times/dates vary
Contact: Chuck Fletcher (509) 625-7967
-or- www.pnws-awwa.org/committees

WASHINGTON

Spokane Regional Cross Connection Control Committee (SRC4). 3rd Tuesday 11:30am – 1:30pm
Contact: Denny Lopp *82 (509) 456-7273
Email lopko43@msn.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
Lyle Heilman, President
(503) 350-4042 Fax: (503) 350-4052
E-mail: lheilman@ci.beaverton.or.us



WHAT SHOULD THEY HAVE DONE?

Part 1

The following hypothetical case history was partially based on a news media report. It is presented to illustrate the issue of an individual cross connection control specialist's or backflow assembly tester's responsibility to act upon knowledge of a specific cross connection hazard.

This presentation is in two parts. The second part will be presented as an afternoon session at the SCR4 February 2004 seminar.

Part 2 will discuss the following:

- Health Issues – Actual versus potential risk
- Regulatory Issues:
 - WA DOH (WAC 246-290-490)
 - LAA (Plumbing Code)
 - WA DOH Operator Certification
- Legal Issues – relating to employee's actions or inactions
- Human Resources Management Issues

CASE HISTORY

A city parks department, operating a municipal golf course, employed a cross connection control specialist (CCS) and a backflow assembly tester (BAT). Both were certified by the WA Department of Health.

The service to the golf course's turf irrigation system was isolated from the privately owned public water system (water purveyor) by a reduced pressure backflow assembly (RPBA) on the golf course property, immediately downstream of the service meter. The water purveyor notified the golf course (owner of the RPBA) to submit a test report for the requisite annual test of the backflow preventer.

The water purveyor required premises isolation of the irrigation service by a RPBA because the system was equipped to inject fertilizer and/or herbicides.

The BAT's test of the RPBA disclosed that the assembly needed repair. When the BAT shut off the isolating valves to the RPBA, a nearby golfer was

heard to comment that the water in the drinking fountain abruptly stopped. The golfer walked over to the BAT and asked if the water was just shut off. Since the drinking fountain should not be on the same service as the non-potable irrigation system, the BAT opened the isolating valves to the RPBA and confirmed that indeed, the drinking fountain was supplied from the irrigation service and not the potable water service to the golf course.

The BAT reported his findings to the CCS. The CCS then notified the parks department maintenance supervisor of the need to disconnect the drinking fountain from the irrigation system. To reconnect the drinking fountain to the potable water piping on the golf course would require the installation of approximately 500-feet of pipe that would cross the fairway.

The CCS and BAT did not know if the irrigation system was ever used to inject fertilizer or herbicides. However, the irrigation system did contain ground level sprinkler heads that may allow standing water on the ground to be siphoned into the irrigation piping. This would present a risk of microbiological contamination of the irrigation piping.



The CCS and BAT did not know of any complaints from golfers that may have consumed water from the drinking fountain of an unusual taste or odor, or subsequent illness. They did not collect a water sample for bacteriological or chemical analysis.

After two weeks, the CCS stopped at the golf course and observed that the drinking fountain was still in operation. At the end of the work shift the CCS asked the maintenance supervisor when the drinking fountain would be disconnected. The maintenance supervisor stated concerns about the cost of reconnecting the drinking fountain to the potable water piping and shutting off the drinking fountain during the summer months when the golf course was in high use.

(Continued on page 4)

STATE HEALTH CONTACTS*IDAHO*

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

OREGON

CCC Program Manager - Mary Leverette
(503) 731-4002 ext. 232

WASHINGTON

CCC Program Manager - Terri Notestine
(360) 236-3133

Email terri.notestine@doh.wa.gov

State Approved List - Marsha Carlton
(800) 521-0323

BAT Certification - David Kingsley
(800) 562-0858

Operator Certification (800) 525-2536

(Continued from page 3)

The CCS restated concern about the health risk. The next day the CCS sent a memo to the maintenance supervisor about the drinking fountain and the potential risk of contamination. The CCS attached excerpts from the PNWS AWWA Manual and WA DOH regulations to provide additional information about the health risk and need for cross connection control.

After another week, the CCS asked the maintenance supervisor about the status of disconnecting the drinking fountain. The maintenance supervisor's reply was that this was a complicated issue, and that consideration was being given to the appropriate action. The maintenance supervisor stated that the CCS and BAT would be informed on what action will be taken.

The CCS and BAT discussed the issue and decided that:

There was a significant health risk.

If someone became ill from drinking contaminated water from this drinking fountain, they could face criminal charges and/or a lawsuit for damages.

They were aware of the following regulation:

Furnishing Impure Water - Penalty. *Every owner, agent, manager, operator or other person having charge of any waterworks furnishing water for public or private use, who shall knowingly permit any act or omit any duty or precaution by reason whereof the purity of healthfulness of the water supplied shall become impaired, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.* [1909 c 249 {291; RRS} 2543.]

As certified operators, they had a responsibility to take action. Failure to do so could result in their loss of certification.

To obtain action, they notified the local newspaper of the situation. This was done under the understanding from the reporter that the newspaper would

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not disclose their names. Unfortunately, the newspaper credited the story to the two employees.

Shortly after the newspaper article was published, the parks department dismissed both the CCS and BAT for "exceeding their authority" and "failing to follow the instructions of their supervisor".

OVERVIEW

What should the CCS and BAT have done?

Their options included, but may not be limited to the following:

1. Limit their actions to providing a memo describing the situation and their concern to their immediate supervisor.
2. After another two or three weeks, send a second memo to their supervisor.
3. Not wait any longer, go over the head of their immediate supervisor and notify the head of the parks department.
4. Inform the mayor and council.
5. Inform the local health inspector.
6. Inform the WA Department of Health.
7. Ask their union to intercede and communicate their concerns to the head of the parks department and mayor.
8. Notify the news media.
9. On their own initiative, disconnect the drinking fountain.

Stay tuned for Part 2 for the answers and/or more questions.

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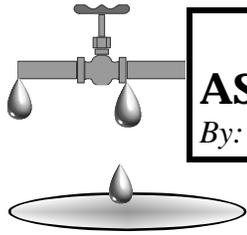
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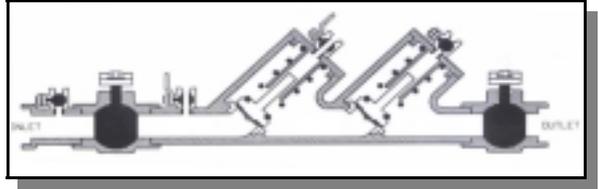
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BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY REPAIR Part 4

By: Jim Purzycki, BAVCO



Double Checks & Double Check Detector Assys.

In our first three articles we described how an RP operates in a working and non-working condition. Before you can properly diagnose any condition, it is important to know how the assembly is supposed to operate. In our test procedures we must be able to diagnose a working assembly and also know when it is not working properly. In this article we are going to talk about how the Double Check Assembly (DC) and the Double Check Detector Assembly (DCDA) are supposed to operate.

A **Double Check Assembly** is simply two approved independently operating check valves that can hold a minimum of 1 PSI in the direction of flow with the outlet of the check valve open to atmosphere. These checks must be located between an inlet and outlet shut-off and have 4 properly located test cocks. The check valves in a DC must hold a minimum pressure (1.0 PSI minimum). If a check valve is holding less than 1.0 PSI let us use 0.5 PSI as an example, testers will incorrectly say, "The check valve is leaking". This leads some people to believe this check valve would not stop a backflow condition because it is leaking. The check valve is not leaking at 0.5 PSI because it is still sealing off the area upstream and downstream of the check valve with a 0.5 PSI loading. The check valve is performing below the minimum criteria as established in the test procedure (1.0). The minimum criteria in a test procedure is set at a point that will trigger a repair before the assembly can degrade to the point where it cannot prevent backflow (0.0). As long as our check valve has a positive loading it can prevent backflow but only when it is above 1.0 does it meet the minimum criteria as established in the test procedure. So once the test procedure generates data that the check is maintaining less than 1.0 PSI we must repair the check to its original working specifications.

Conditions that can cause a check in a DC to perform below its optimum level are many. The cause of check failure is due to the failure of the disc to seal with adequate pressure against the check seat. Many times the check spring is blamed for this lack of pressure but this is usually not true. The more common causes of failure is dirt and debris between the disc and seat. Another common problem is disc degradation where the disc will not seal against the check seat. The third common cause is a restriction in the travel of the guide limiting the movement of the check valve.

There is a variation of a DC called a **Double Check Detector Assembly**. This is a double check created for fire sprinkler applications. A DCDA consists of an approved DC with a bypass arrangement that consists of a by-pass water meter and an approved by-pass DC. This by-pass is piped around the mainline DC. The purpose of this by-pass arrangement is to detect and register the first 3 gallons per minute (GPM) of flow across the backflow preventer into the fire system. Many BAT's think a DCDA is simply any small by-pass DC piped around any main line DC with a meter attached and because the by-pass DC is smaller the first flow will go through it. This is not true. In order for the by-pass to detect and register this 3GPM, the two DC's and the water meter must be engineered so that the larger assembly will have a slightly higher differential at the low flow condition (0-3GPM). This will assure the first 3 GPM's travels through and is registered by the water meter in the by-pass. Then if the fire system demands more than 3 GPM, the main line assembly will open up and flow to the designed flow requirements of the system. An unknowing installer may install a mainline DC and pipe in a by-pass that looks similar to the DCDA assembled by the manufacturer. These unapproved DCDA's cannot guarantee that they will detect this first 3GPM because they are not factory engineered assemblies but rather a collection of 2 DC's and a water meter assembled to look like a DCDA.

The reason it is important to detect this low flow of water is that most fire protection systems do not have a mainline water meter at their point of service from the water purveyor. Because fire systems are an emergency connection, water purveyors do not want the expense or extra flow loss of going through a water



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meter. Because fire systems are considered an emergency connection there should be no flow to detect across a mainline water meter anyway. Water purveyors use this by-pass to assure that water users with fire systems do not flow water through this emergency connection and also with the ability of the by-pass to detect small flows, they can also detect if there are any small leaks that may be under ground and out of sight.

The check valves of a DCDA are similar to the DC and the repair process will be similar. In many cases the spring loading of the mainline assembly or the by-pass may be different from the standard DC, but the repair procedures and the test procedures to diagnose its workings are the same. 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



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The Changing World of Backflow

By Mike Jespersen of Mechanical Agents Inc.

For many years backflow assemblies remained very similar in nature, with only slight modifications made by each manufacturer. Nowadays, virtually every manufacturer has new models out that promise to be the next great thing. For those involved in Cross Connection and Backflow, it is important to recognize the changes that are taking place.

There are several common themes that manufacturers are looking at with current backflow preventers, especially on larger models (21/2"-10"). The most prevalent changes taking place are assembly size, weight, flow characteristics, and ease of service. While each manufacturer has attempted to address these issues, no two have done so the same way. Double Check Valve Assemblies (DCVA), and Reduced Pressure Principle Assemblies (RP) are the main valves we will be referring to, with each also capable of being a detector setup (DCDA, and RPDA).

Just like microchips and cell phones, backflow preventers keep getting smaller and lighter. By having an assembly that has a shorter lay length, it is more reasonable to provide a smaller vault if located outside, or take up less room if placed inside the building. In an RP application, a smaller backflow enclosure may be used with newer assemblies, or an even smaller enclosure

can be used if an "N" pattern assembly is supplied on the job. The change in size on the peripheral items such as vaults or enclosures can save the owner literally thousands of dollars. The key to having a short and light assembly is making sure that it doesn't compromise what I feel is the most important aspects of an assembly: operation, flow characteristics, and serviceability.

As assemblies shrink, it is important to pay very close attention to the internal parts to understand how they work, and how they will be serviced. A short assembly with little weight may be great for initial install, but if those properties lead to greater service and maintenance costs year after year, it may not be such a good deal. Key considerations are how the assembly is opened, how the checks are removed, and how maintenance parts are replaced. Are parts minimal and easy to handle, or easy to drop and misplace during service? Be sure to consider the environment that the assembly will be in. A clean tabletop demonstration may seem very different than what it will be like to take checks apart, and reassembled in the cold rain of February. Could the entire assembly be taken apart and reassembled with gloves on? The whole package needs to be considered when choosing an assembly, as the TRUE price includes how much it will cost to service and maintain it over its working lifetime.

Flow characteristics are one of the biggest

(Continued on page 10)

**CCC ACTIVITIES AND CONTACTS
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

OREGON

Clackamas Community College
(503) 657-6958 Ext. 2388

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
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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
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Cross Connection Control Introduction



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206.763.2850 • 800.222.2850 • fax: 206.763.0842
www.hot-box.com • email: bill.stone@alliancesalesnw.com

Upcoming CCC Meetings

Sept. 25, 2003 - PNWS-AWWA CCC Committee will hold their meeting in Tacoma, WA.

This meeting will be held from 10AM - 2PM in the Auditorium Conference Room (ground floor) located at the Tacoma Public Utilities Building.

All people interested are welcome to attend. Contact is Chuck Fletcher at (509) 625-7967. Or, his email address is cletcher@spokaneccity.org.

SRC4 11th Annual Seminar. The time, place and date are yet to be announced. Keep in touch with Denny Lopp at lopko43@msn.com or Bill Roe at mrooe@aimcomm.net to find out specifics. Also, watch for the upcoming Flyer!

ABPA - Oregon Chapter has set the date of Jan. 22, 2004 for the next Annual Seminar. See more info on the front page of this publication.

The Newsletter Editors want to take this opportunity to say **Thank You** to the Advertisers you see in this publication!
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FYI: Idaho Regs for BATs

By: Troy Thrall, Idaho DEQ Technical Services

The Idaho Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems require that backflow assembly testers be, "...certified by the Department (Idaho DEQ), or by a certifying authority recognized by the Department. Testers are to be re-certified every two (2) years."

To become certified in Idaho, backflow assembly testers (BATs) are required to complete a 32 hour backflow assembly tester class taught by an instructor recognized by Idaho DEQ, pass a written exam, and pass a practical exam. Re-certification requires an 8-hour refresher class, a written test and a practical exam.

Idaho currently offers reciprocity to BATs who are certified in Washington and Oregon. To apply for reciprocity, send a request along with a copy of your Washington or Oregon certification to:

Joan Thomas
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

Re-certification requirements can be met by keeping your certification current in either Oregon or Washington. You must provide Idaho DEQ with evidence of your certification every two years.

Reciprocity for testers certified in states other than Washington or Oregon is considered on a case by case basis. Idaho DEQ will evaluate requests for reciprocity by comparing Idaho requirements with requirements of other states. Reciprocity may be granted automatically, or after completing a refresher class. In some cases the full 32-hour class may be required.

If you have any questions about becoming certified in Idaho please contact Joan Thomas at (208) 373-0409 or jthomas@deq.state.id.us. If you have any questions regarding cross connection control in Idaho please contact Troy Thrall at (208) 373-0175 or tthrall@deq.state.id.us.

Cleaning of Backflow Preventers

By: Denny Lopp, SRC4

RCW18.106.310 takes precedence over the no-longer-effective December 7, '99 Letter from Kevin Morris, in which he defined "cleaning" a backflow preventer inside a building for hire as including disassembly, cleaning, cleaning of debris and scale and replacing the internal parts of the assembly.

However, presently to perform this activity for hire, inside a building, the technician must be a registered contractor AND either have a current Plumber's License OR a Specialty Plumber Backflow Assembly Certification.

For further information, contact Dennis Yonker. He is the Assistant Chief of the Contractor Compliance Plumber Certification for the Washington Dept. of Labor & Industries. His address is P.O. Box 44450, Olympia, WA 98504. Phone: (360) 902-6303. His email address is: yonk235@lni.wa.gov.

WWCCPPGroup's 4th Annual CC Seminar

Wednesday, OCTOBER 22, 2003

Howard Johnson Plaza Inn

Everett, WA

This all-day event features:

- Terri Notestine (DOH, Program Manager) reporting on the 2002 Annual Summary Report
- Judy Johnson (DOH, CCS/BAT Certification) reporting on Certification and Enforcement Issues
- Dave Cantrell (Snohomish Co. Building Inspections) speaking on Building Official's Perspectives on Cross Connection
- Mike Becker (Highline Water District) speaking about Negotiating and Coordinating with Local Administrative Authorities
- Dennis Yonker (WA State L&I) reporting on the status of the new BAT Specialty Plumbers License Program
- Paul Schwartz (USC Testing Lab) reporting on testing Test Kits, testing SVBA's, and testing DCVA's in the direction of flow, and
- Jim Purzycki (BAVCO) presenting identifying Improper Backflow Assembly Installations

The program runs from 8:00AM to 4:00PM and lunch is provided. Full-day attendance awards 0.7 CEU's. Applications may be secured via email at fruitlandwater@qwest.net or calling Roger Nottage at 253-848-5519. Registration is \$100 per person and is limited to 135 persons. Send completed applications to: WWCCPPGroup; Post Office Box 94551; Seattle, WA. 98124.

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McLauchlin to Direct Region #7, ABPA

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Gary McLauchlin. At this years ABPA conference I was sworn in as the new Director for Region 7 (WA, OR, ID, AK and MT). I have been employed with the City of Bend Oregon for just over a year as the Cross-Connection Control Program Manager. Prior to relocating to Bend, I managed Vancouver Washington's Cross-Connection Control program for over 12 years.

I am anxious to help you with any need or questions concerning backflow or cross-connection control. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you. If you would like information about ABPA or have questions please contact me at 541-317-3019 or gmc@bendcable.com.

As your Region 7 Director, I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and efforts promoting and educating the public in backflow prevention and cross-connection control.

This years ABPA National Conference was held May 5-7, 2003 at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Hotel in Michigan. The hotel was located on the border between Canada and the US overlooking the Detroit River. All those that attended enjoyed a great line up of sessions and vendors.



One of the speakers was our own Denny Lopp of SRC4. With his 40+ years with Modern Electric Water, Denny brought a lot of insight with his session addressing "How Does The Assembly Work?"

I would like to wish Denny a long and happy retirement and thank him for all of his hard work in the past and look forward to his continued involvement in the future.

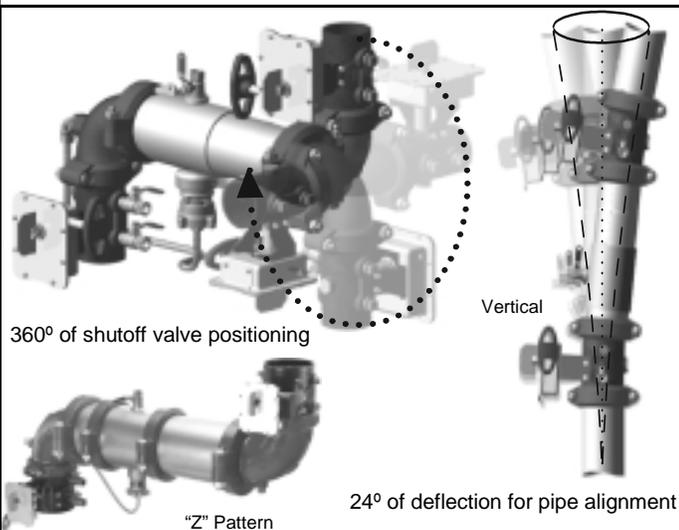
Start making plans now to attend next years 2004 ABPA International Conference and Tradeshow! It will be held in Long Beach California May 9-12, 2004. It is always educational and a great opportunity to find answers and information addressing current issues.

Gary McLauchlin
ABPA Region 7 Director

Upcoming Meetings for Oregon Chapter ABPA

- ◆ August 23rd - Exec. Meeting ◆ Sept. 27th - Quarterly Meeting ◆ Nov. 1st - Exec. Meeting
- ◆ Nov. 22nd - Quarterly Meeting ◆ Dec. 6th - Exec. Meeting ◆ Dec. 20th - Exec. Meeting
- ◆ Jan. 3rd - Exec. Meeting ◆ Jan. 17th - Exec. Meeting

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AMES
FIRE & WATERWORKS

Johnson Takes Reigns At SRC4

Mr. Dave Johnson of Modern Electric Water Co. is now the Chairman of SRC4. Dave has been a long time Member of the group since it's inception in 1987. For the past 4 years, he served as a Director on the Board of Directors.

Dave feels a greater need for more resources to be put into Public Education of cross-connection control.

We all are in support of Dave's goals and wish him success in the coming year.

Likewise, we acknowledge the efforts and dedication from the outgoing Chairman, Steve Herres. We thank him for his service and look forward to his continued involvement.

Bonnie Harrington of H.D. Fowler Company, has been elected to the Director #4 position. Bonnie has previously served as Secretary of SRC4, in the past, for about 10 years. She will assume the duties of the Education Committee Chair. We look forward to her work in that much needed Committee.

With dedicated people like these, SRC4 has a bright future. It will continue to be successful in it's goals.

**WORKING TO PROTECT CLEAN,
SAFE DRINKING WATER**

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issues manufacturers are dealing with today. With fire-line retrofits a reality, head loss is a big concern. Most manufacturers currently have assemblies available that claim to have significantly lower head losses compared to older styles. We recommend taking a close look at *third party* data, such as USC's flow curves, for each model they have approved. This takes the bias out, and lets the facts speak for themselves.

7th Annual Western Regional Backflow Conference

For 2003 ABPA Regions 5,6 & 7
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Registration:

- Shane Dillard - (979) 846-7606
- FAX: (979) 846-7607
- www.abpa.org

Spokane Co. WD#3 to Provide Annual Testing

By Ty Wick, SCWD#3

The Board of Water District Commissioners of Spokane Co. Water District #3 recently approved new water rates that resulted in a rate reduction of approximately 20% for most single family and commercial customers. This was accomplished when the District paid off a large bond issue that significantly lowered the annual debt payments. As a part of this rate adjustment, the District has changed its policy towards annual backflow device testing. Prior to this change, the District notified customers when their backflow device/s needed testing. It was the customer's responsibility to hire a tester to have their devices/s tested. Then the account was monitored until the satisfactory test results were received. If the backflow device failed, the customer was responsible to repair or replace the device/s. Many times the customer needed several reminders and the testers didn't always fill out the proper form/s.

In order to avoid all this work, and to recoup the cost of testing, the anticipated expense associated with this service was included in the new water rates. Now, the District will be in direct control of the testing and will hire a contractor to perform this service for the District. However, the customer will still be responsible for repairs and/or replacement of the backflow device/s.

The District believes that it will save approximately one-half of a full time position the first year. "With more and more new devices being installed the old method was taking way too much time and effort", said Ty Wick, General Mgr.

Since the District installs backflow devices on new services, they were providing the first test of the device/s after installation anyway. This change is just an extension of what they were already doing for new services to include annual testing as well.

*Editor's Note: To the best of our knowledge, this type of program has not previously been implemented in the area. We would welcome comments from those who currently have or have had a similar program. Send your responses to SRC4, P.O. Box 13086, Spokane, WA 99213
email to: mrroe@aimcomm.net or lopko43@msn.com.*