



Southern California Chapter Newsletter

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**Interested in joining
ABPA ?
Contact your County
Director listed
above.**

Escondido Repair Seminar

On March 15, over sixty backflow testers attended an all-day backflow prevention assembly repair seminar at the Escondido campus of Palomar College. Sponsored by ABPA's Southern California Chapter, the seminar was conducted by Jim Purzycki of BAVCO. Jim started with a general overview of backflow issues, including hydraulics, types of backflow prevention assemblies and where to find reference information. He then moved to specific backflow prevention assembly details covering brands, models and components. From there Jim reviewed proper testing procedures and what the test readings actually mean. He then turned to the necessary preparations for repairs and finally to the actual repair process.

The large group of testers looking over each others' shoulders to see how Jim completed the repair process simply wouldn't work. Jim rather ingeniously solved that problem by using a camera which transmitted his work to T.V. monitors. Consequently, everyone got a close-up view of how to do the repairs.

To keep the always hungry testers happy, mega-sized donuts and a sack lunch were provided to all attendees.

The Southern California Chapter would like to thank Jim and BAVCO for donating their time and equipment to put on an outstanding seminar.



Chapter News and Upcoming Events

Plans are underway for the Southern California Chapter 7th Annual Conference to be held in the Los Angeles/Long Beach area in the Fall. The Conference will focus on current issues in backflow prevention and cross-connection control. Exhibitors will display the latest in backflow prevention assemblies, test gauges and other accessories. Our next newsletter will have all the details. Brochures will be mailed once the plans are finalized.

A Chapter Board meeting was held on June 8. President Steve Nakauchi reported that there were no new nominations for Chapter Officers received by the May 1 deadline. The current officers agreed to serve an additional term and were elected unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be held on August 3, 7 pm at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 13252 Brookhurst in Garden Grove. ABPA members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Steve Nakauchi at (562) 570-4134 if interested.

Size Does Matter

Submitted by Sergio Ochoa, ABPA Director for Riverside County

The duration of a cross-connection control course typically is spent going over applicable Title 17 and Title 22 laws and proper testing procedures of backflow prevention assemblies. One very important aspect of being a certified tester/specialist is to gain knowledge of any and all existing codes that relate to backflow and cross connection issues.

Having a backflow prevention assembly installed as meter protection is a significant concern of any water purveyor. As important, the monitoring and enforcement of properly installed backflow prevention assemblies by assuring the following conditions are met:

1. Does the assembly conform to the appropriate degree of hazard?
2. Does the assembly conform to all pertinent clearances (i.e., minimum and maximum height requirements, side clearances, vaults and drainage)?
3. Does the size of the assembly conform to code requirements (i.e., Plumbing, State, County, local, governing agency, or utility)?

Item #3 seems to be the most common culprit of non-compliance and neglect. The 1997 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code under Section 610.2 in part states “no backflow prevention device shall be installed in any potable water supply piping when the diameter of the inlet or outlet of such device or its connecting piping is less than the diameter of such water supply piping.”

Personally, I have observed this quandary too frequently and surmise that the installer and water purveyor are putting themselves at great risk. Should some unforeseen incident occur on site and the consequences coincide with inadequate sizing, any Philadelphia lawyer would have a field day suing all parties involved. Rightfully so, if the customer is paying for a two-inch (2”) meter then he/she should have full access to this size and not cut corners by installing a smaller sized backflow prevention assembly.

Workshops are a good resource for gathering relevant information. I recommend setting aside two hours every other month to attend one.

It may very likely pay intangible dividends and could save on possible unpleasant and costly litigation.

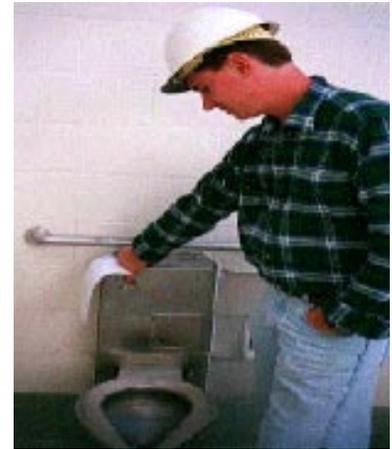
Creating a **BIG** cross-connection
at Torrey Pines Golf Course.



Recycled Water Goes to Jail

Submitted by Richard Carlson, County of San Diego

Some feel that sending recycled water to jail is a good idea. And once in jail, by Title 22 California Code of Regulations, recycled water can be locked away in cells - actually, in the toilets. It can also be used for trap priming and clothes washing. However, once in jail it becomes a problematic prisoner. The reason is that it has to be completely segregated from any contact with potable water. And that is where the Cross-Connection Control Specialist comes to the rescue.



Glenn Leeks flushes one of 500 toilets at the jail, checking for dye.



Denise St. Laurent administers dye at injection station.

Title 22 requires that the testing for the segregation - actually the demonstration that the recycled water and the potable water systems are completely separated - be performed by a Cross-Connection Control Specialist (CCCS). Such a test is currently in process at the East Mesa Detention Facility, served by Otay Water District, in southern San Diego County. The jail is a 500-cell facility owned by the County of San Diego but operated by the Correction Corporation of America.

The County in cooperation with State Health developed the methodology for the test, which involves using both dye and pressure recorders. Knowing the penchant that prisoners have for suing, the development of the test was arduous and thorough. In fact, one of the many requirements for using recycled water is that there be a full-time Cross-Connection Control Specialist at the jail.

Doug Clarke and Larry Olds from the Otay Water District; Glenn Leeks, Llew Munter, Denise St. Laurent and Richard Carlson from the County Department of Environmental Health - all CCCS's, are currently performing the tests along with Sean Hanlon, Project Manager from Centex Rooney.



Doug Clarke, Larry Olds, Glenn Leeks and Sean Hanlon discuss best locations to place pressure recorders.

While there is not enough space to go into the complete test methodology, suffice it to say that this is another area and opportunity for the backflow prevention testing community.

The Benefits of ABPA Membership



There is a genuine need for education, cooperation and organization in the changing and growing world of backflow prevention and cross connection control. That need is met by ABPA, a non-profit organization founded in 1984. Our goal is to provide education and technical assistance to ensure safe drinking water through effective cross-connection control.

Our members include both new and experienced plumbing contractors, backflow prevention assembly testers, regulators from health departments and water suppliers and others with an interest in maintaining water quality standards. Contact your County Director listed on page one, or Steve Nakauchi at (562) 570-4134 for a membership application or more information. Or you can go to the ABPA web page at www.abpa.org. Membership fees are \$45.00, which includes both local chapter (\$15) and national (\$30) dues. Members also enjoy benefits like:

- Reduced registration rates** for conferences, training programs and seminars
- ABPA News:** The only publication devoted exclusively to cross-connection control
- Chapter Newsletters:** Devoted to addressing local concerns
- Technical Assistance** from other members with cross-connection control programs and backflow prevention testing issues



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