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ABPA Southern California Chapter

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SoCal ABPA Recaps 2007 Welcomes in 2008 events

Message from the Chapter President

Pete Peters



I would like to thank our Board of Directors for all their efforts this pass year. This past year our chapter held a repair workshop in June, Backflow Industry Product Fair in August and our 14th Annual Conference in November. These were just the local chapter events, our board also participated in the Western Regional Backflow Conference in Las Vegas, the National ABPA Conference in Reno and the Inland Counties Backflow fair in San Bernardino. In January we start planning for 2008, our chapter will be participating in the same three local events: a repair workshop, Backflow Industry Product Fair and our 15th Annual Conference.

Be sure to check our website for the most current event and contact information.....

<http://www.socalabpa.org>.

A special thank you goes out to all our vendors that helped sponsor the events that we had in 2007.

For our Members, contact one of the your county directors and suggest topics of interest or to find out more information on how to become involved in your local chapter.

Wishing everyone a happy New Year,

Pete Peters

SoCal Chapter Thanks You for your Support

BAVCO
American Backflow
Basin Valve/Midwest
Cisco Specialty Products
Delco/Watts-Ames
USC FCCCHR
Kennedy Valve
PHCC Training Program

Wilkins, a Zurn Company
O'Connor Sales/Febco
Duke Products
Performance Meters
Marking Services Inc.
EngSoft Solutions
BPGI

Back to the Basics

The reasons or rationale for backflow prevention installations and testing are based on several seemingly simple principles. I say “seemingly simple” because it is frequently very difficult to get these ideas across to the public.

Bottom line, backflow protection is the protection of our drinking water systems, the safety of which the public takes as almost a right. The following is a brief recap of these principles. Backflow is simply a reversal of a hydraulic gradient. In other words, the water or other substances flow the wrong way in a piping system. There are two forms of backflow: backpressure and backsiphonage.

There are five methods of protecting against backflow. These are the air gap; the reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly (RP); the double check valve assembly (DC); the pressure vacuum breaker (PVB); spill resistant pressure vacuum breaker (SVB); and the atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB).

There are two forms of hazards to protect against; the contaminant and the pollutant. The contaminant is a health hazard, in other words it can impair your health. A pollutant is a non-health hazard. Today almost everything is considered to be - when reviewing the mcls or maximum contaminant levels of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act - a contaminant.

There are now mcls measured in parts per billion. Interestingly, to give you some reference, one part per million equates to one second in 11 days; one part per billion is equal to one second in 32 years—obviously, today it doesn't take much to cause a problem.

How to provide protection against contaminants and pollutants: The air gap provides protection against both contaminants and pollutants, backpressure and backsiphonage; the RP also provides protection against both types of hazards and against both forms of backflow. The DC provides protection against both forms of backflow, but only against pollutants. The PVB/SVB provides protection against both forms of hazards, but only against backsiphonage; the same is true of the AVB. There is a lot more to the above but space limitations (and an exacting editor) require that this time we go over only the basic issues.

For further information, contact any of the ABPA officers @ <http://www.socalabpa.org>.

ABPA Offers New Certification Program!!!

The ABPA is pleased to announce a brand new certification program for the cross-connection control community. This new certification program will start on 1 January 2008. The certification is titled Cross-Connection Control Specialist (Specialist).

The Specialist is intended to be the person administering/managing a cross connection control program. This person must demonstrate their knowledge of proper backflow prevention assembly application, installation and operation, as well as the ability to read and understand field test data for all backflow prevention assemblies. The Specialist must also be capable of conducting the on-site cross-connection control survey to determine the need for backflow protection. This program is the result of almost 10 years of hard work and dedication by the ABPA Certification Committee. You may recall filling out a survey questionnaire in 2003 pertaining to cross-connection control program managers and operators. Based on the responses to this survey, the ABPA Board of Directors directed the Certification Committee to proceed with the development of the Cross-Connection Control Specialist Certification Program. The Specialist Certification program, like the Tester Certification program, is completely voluntary.

There is a written exam required for certification. Maintaining the "Specialist" Certificate will require a re-certification written exam every three (3) years. To qualify to take the Specialist exam, you must first be an ABPA certified Tester. You must also successfully complete a Specialist course of instruction, or have a minimum two years experience in the administration of a cross-connection control program, or a suitable combination of both.

Other qualifications will be allowed during the program implementation period, please review these qualifications in the Specialist Rules. Complete details and applications will be forth coming on the ABPA website. The application fee has been set at \$75.00. The information on the written exam will cover subjects contained on the ABPA Specialists Need-to-Know Criteria.

You can check with the ABPA National Office regarding times and locations of Specialist exams. Some training facilities may arrange to have the ABPA Specialist examinations administered at the conclusion of their training program. Once you successfully complete the written examination you will receive a wall certificate and a wallet card containing your name, date of certification and certification number. This certification brings with it, the benefits of nationally validated exams, third party administration and the requirement for re-certification every three (3) years.

The ABPA national certification will be addressing the needs of our cross connection control community for fully trained and proficient Cross-Connection Control Specialists. This certification is truly one of a kind and one you can be proud that you have obtained. We at ABPA are very proud to be on the leading edge of Cross-Connection Control and we look forward to serving the needs of our members and the public now and in the future.



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2008 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW



Make plans now to attend the 2008 International Conference and Trade Show

The American Backflow Prevention Association International Conference and Trade Show will be held in the **Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 19 - 21, 2008**. This annual event is **ABPA's premier educational conference**, considered by many to be one of the best in the country.

Keep an I on the ABPA website www.abpa.org for further information. Brochures will be mailed out in January.