2/94

Southern California Chapter
American Backflow Prevention Association
ABPA
NEWSLETTER

Backflow assembly field test procedures are set by the local authority that has jurisdiction over a specific backflow assembly. There could be different jurisdictional authorities involved in the same building having backflow assemblies depending if the backflow assembly is installed as a meter protection assembly or an internal protection assembly. Meter protection assemblies are usually under the jurisdiction of the water department that serves the building. The internal protection assemblies usually come under the jurisdiction of the Health Department of the county the building is located in. With so many different jurisdictional authorities the possibility of different accepted test procedures exists. This could require several different tester licenses to be able to perform the field test procedures. Many states in the country have a single tester license that is good throughout a whole state or a few states adjacent to each other. Southern California is unique in that many different tester licenses are required in a relatively small geographic area. To operate as a backflow assembly tester from Ventura to San Diego could require a minimum of eight different tester licenses. The majority of these jurisdictions base their accepted test procedures on chapter nine of the Manual of Cross-Connection Control as printed by the USC Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research. The Foundation is recognized internationally for its study of backflow assemblies, test procedures, regulations and proper uses of backflow assemblies. In December of 1993 the Foundation released the ninth and newest edition of the manual. Chapter nine of this edition has many changes to assist the tester in understanding the field test procedures. One big help is the use of illustrations to clarify field test procedures. An increased number of test options have been developed to help troubleshoot the conditions of the assembly. The most significant change has been on the field test procedure for the double check assembly. In the eighth edition a backpressure test was utilized. The intent was to test the assembly for the condition it was primarily being used for, that being backpressure. The ninth edition now recommends a direction of flow test which is commensurate with the design criteria of a double check assembly. The direction of flow test procedures are accomplished with the differential gauge as opposed to the backpressure test which required the duplex gauge. The new test procedures are being evaluated by the local jurisdictional authorities to determine if they will be adopted. Most have expressed their desire to switch to the new test method. Many of you that

carry the Los Angeles County Health Department tester license have been doing a similar test procedure for many years. The version that appears in the ninth edition of the USC manual is different and requires an understanding of the differences. Check with you local authority to determine if there will be a change in you area.

Shut-off failure on a backpressure test has always been a condition that must be accurately identified to correctly asses the assembly. The same need exists with the new direction of flow test for the double check. New troubleshooting tests have been developed to identify shut-off failures.

Reduced pressure assemblies have had an optional test developed to test the second check in the direction of flow in addition to the usual backpressure method. This test is designed as an option to further ensure the working of the second check.

The pressure vacuum breaker has had an optional test developed to determine if the assembly is subjected to backpressure. This is an important installation requirement of a pressure vacuum breaker.

To help make these and the other changes clear, the Southern California Chapter of ABPA has arranged two meetings to see the new test procedures demonstrated and get the chance to practice the new test procedures.

NEXT MEETINGS

We hope you will be able to join us in these informative meetings on the new field test procedures. All members and non-members are welcome to these meetings. We ask you to R.S.V.P. so we can plan accordingly. The meetings begin promptly at 6:00 pm and end at 8:00 pm.

Session 1:
February 23, 1994
Vallecitos Water District
788 W. San Marco Blvd
San Marcos, CA
Contact: Mike Kidd
(619) 744-0460
Instructor: Patrick Sylvester - USC Foundation for Cross connection Control & Hydraulic Research

Session 2:
March 16, 1994
Mission Viejo High School Theatre Bld
25025 Chrisanta Dr.
Mission Viejo, CA
Contact: Eric Foltz
(714) 837-1660
Instructor Marty Friebert R.E.H.S.
Co. of Orange Health Care Agency

SEE YOU THERE