

SQUAW VALLEY MUTUAL WATER COMPANY

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MANDATORY BACK FLOW PREVENTION PROGRAM

State law mandates that there are safety devices that isolate the drinking water side of our supply system from anything that could contaminate it, like sprinkler systems, or possibly hot tubs or hydronic heating systems. The California State Water Resources Control Board is charged with enforcing this requirement and they require that we put into place a procedure that would identify all such possibilities. The Mutual Board is evaluating our existing program and determining what would satisfy the State requirements.

What the Regulations Require

Section 7584 of the California Code of Regulations requires that each public water system implement a cross connection control program that:

- (i) Conducts surveys (to assess where cross connections exist or are likely to occur (e.g. new construction, remodels),
- (ii) Requires the installation of a backflow device at all connections where a cross connection hazard has been identified, and
- (iii) a procedure or system for testing backflow prevention assemblies

Purpose of the State Mandated Cross Connection Control Program:

The purpose of the cross connection control program is to reduce the hazard of contamination of the public water system by identifying actual and potential cross connections and taking action to protect the system from these hazards. This is accomplished by installing backflow prevention assemblies where hazards are identified; or ensuring that water-using equipment on the premises is installed in accordance with plumbing code requirements and good practice.

What are cross connections?

Cross connections are connections between a potable water system and any source or system containing unapproved water or a substance which is not safe. Examples of cross connections include:

1. Improperly installed irrigation systems that may allow backsiphonage of stagnant, bacteriologic ally unsafe water into the piping system.
2. Improperly plumbed water-using devices such as hot-tubs, boilers or commercial dishwashers which may allow unsafe water back into the domestic piping system.

3. Irrigation systems served by an auxiliary source, such as a private well or creek. Such systems create a potential for major contamination of the public water system via interties with the domestic piping system.
4. Interconnections between the potable system and a non-potable system, for example, between the potable water system and a hydronic heating system.

The Program

The Mutual Board is working to re-implement the existing program. Such a program will require that (i) if a cross connection exists on a property; a backflow device must be installed and inspected/tested on an annual basis, and (ii) the inspection/testing report must be sent to the Mutual office. At the end of this note is a list of companies that a customer can contact to perform the inspection and provide the written certification that would be sent to the Water Company.

So as the Board gears up to re-establish the monitoring program, each account should evaluate their own premises to see if any of the following exist:

1. Auxiliary water supply (i.e. either a well or a creek pump) - backflow prevention device is mandatory.
2. Irrigation systems – a backflow prevention device is not required if the system is installed in accordance with plumbing codes with appropriate vacuum breakers.
3. Swimming pool, hot tub or spa – a backflow prevention device is not required if the system is installed in accordance with plumbing codes.
4. Solar hot water heating panels – a backflow prevention device is not required if the system is installed in accordance with plumbing codes.
5. Gray water systems – a backflow prevention assemblies may not be required if the system is installed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code.
6. Hydronic Heating Systems – a closed loop system without a water make-up line does not require a backflow prevention device

So here are the essential elements of what a program will entail on the part of a customer:

1. Determine if you currently have a back flow device or devices
2. Determine if a backflow device is required
3. Contact a certified testing company annually for certification of your device
4. Provide the Mutual office with certification of your device every year
5. Contact the Mutual Office for more information if needed

Here is a list of companies that a customer can contact to perform the inspection and provide the written certification that would be sent to the Water Company.

CERTIFIED BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTERS			
A Thyme to Plant	PO Box 756 Kings Beach, CA 96143	Telephone: Fax:	530/559-6250
A Squaw Valley Backflow	PO Box 595 Crystal Bay, NV 89402	Telephone: Fax:	530/448-3717
AAA Fire Sprinklers Inc.	630 Kresge Lane Sparks, NV 89431	Telephone: Fax:	775/359-5455 775/359-2552
B&L Backflow Testing Specialists	P.O. Box 4867 Incline Village, NV 89450	Telephone Telephone Reno	866/753-9629 775/831-0123 775/853-6361
Backflow Testing Services	P.O. Box 17819 South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151	Telephone	530/318-3093 530/543/0387
Barbara Smith Backflow Test & Repairs	P.O. Box 9375 Truckee, CA 96162	Telephone: Fax:	775/544-9962
Clark Plumbing	2178 Eloise Ave Suite A South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150	Telephone: Fax:	530/542-1771 530/541-5911
D & D Plumbing, Inc.	P.O. Box 3257 Sparks, NV 89432	Telephone: Fax:	775/358-2378 775/358-8135
Delta Fire Systems, Inc.	4855 Joule Street #B8 Reno, NV 89502	Telephone: Fax:	775/359-0396 775-331-7523
Dodd's Backflow Testing	P.O. Box 7981 Tahoe City, CA 96145	Telephone: Cell:	530/448-2193 530/448-2193
D.R. Precit	P.O. Box 712 Kings Beach, CA 96143	Telephone: Fax:	530/277-4677 530/452-4552
Estate Landscape & Irrigation	P.O. Box 7878 Tahoe City, CA 96145	Telephone: Mobile:	530/546-2042 530/546-2088
KT Systems Inc.	719 Waxwing Place Davis, CA	Telephone: Fax:	530/583-5244 530/583-1173
Lakeview Plumbing Co.	PO Box 2325 Truckee, CA 96160	Telephone: Fax:	530/587-3315 530/582-0799
JB Fire Systems, Inc.	217 Endeavor Lane Fernley, NV 89408	Telephone: Fax:	775/980-6125 775/980-6123
Ness Plumbing and Backflow	P.O. Box 1387 Tahoe City, CA 96145	Telephone: Fax:	530/523-6141 530/525-9298
Northwood Backflow Services	16971 Texas Springs Rd. Redding, CA 96001	Telephone: Fax:	800/750-4547 530/244-2424
Overhead Fire Protection	305 Edison Way Reno, NV 89502	Telephone: Mobile:	775/856-3444 775/690-9835
Perennial Landscape & Nursery	P.O. Box 193 Tahoe Vista, CA 96148	Telephone: Fax:	530/546-7383 530/546-7396
RHP	1008 Fourth Street Reno, NV 89512	Telephone: Fax:	775/322-9434 775/322-8642
Rock & Rose	P.O. Box 6381 Tahoe City, CA 96145	Telephone: Fax:	530/550-7744 530/550-7897
Sierra Backflow sierrabackflow@psln.com	P.O. Box 11181 Truckee, CA 96162	Telephone: Fax:	530/412-0354 530/994-3740
Simplex Grinnell Fire Protection	1655 Marietta Way, #105 Sparks, NV 89431	Telephone: Fax:	775/331-0590 775/331-4093
Tahoe "C" Company	PO Box 253 Tahoe City, CA 96145	Telephone: Mobile:	530/546-5596 530/318-1668
The House Whisperer	PO Box 5129 Incline Village, NV 89450	Telephone: Fax:	775/832-6547 775/832-6547

More information is available on the SVMWC website.

<http://www.squawvalleymutualwater.com/>

Thank you

Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company Board of Directors