

Rec 3/23/2010

Whispering Pines Estate
Cross Connection Control Program
Ordinance

41-0492

The purpose of this policy is to protect the water supply of Whispering Pines Estates Water Company from contamination or pollution from any cross connections; and to assure that approved backflow assemblies are tested when put into service and at least on an annual basis thereafter. This policy is in compliance with Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-061-0071 and the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) as adopted by the State of Oregon.

The installation or the Maintenance of any unprotected cross connection which would endanger the water supply of the Whispering Pines Estates Water Company is prohibited. Any such cross connection now existing or hereafter installed is hereby declared unlawful and shall be immediately protected or eliminated.

The control or elimination of the cross connection and the criteria from determining degree of the hazard and prescribing the levels of protection shall be in accordance with the UPC and the OAR's.

Water service to any premise shall be contingent upon the customer providing appropriate cross connection control if determined necessary. Determinations and enforcement shall be the responsibility of Dan Perkins the Cross Connection Control Specialist or any certified Cross Connection Control Specialist in conjunction with Whispering Pines Estates Water Company. Water service may be refused or terminated to any premises where an unprotected cross connection may allow contamination or pollutants to backflow into the public drinking water system.

Authorized employees, volunteers, and or board members of Whispering Pines Estates Water Company with proper identification, shall have free access at reasonable hours of the day, to all areas of a premise or the building to which drinking water is supplied for the purpose of conducting hazard assessment surveys. Water service may be refused or terminated, or maximum backflow protection may be required, to the premise where access to perform surveys is denied, where unprotected cross connections are located, or in the event that installed assemblies are not tested and maintained as required by State and local regulations.

Before any water service is terminated, a "due process" of notifying the customer and providing a reasonable time for compliance to be achieved will be observed according to the operating procedures of Whispering Pines Estates Water Company. However, in the event of an actual backflow incident which endangers the public health, water service may be terminated immediately and not be restored until the cross connection is either eliminated or adequately protected.

This ordinance is effective immediately, as of March 15, 2010.

March 15, 2010

Whispering Pines Estates Water

Dear Customer:

During the next few weeks, the Whispering Pines Estates Water Company will begin conducting a survey of your neighborhood in conjunction with our backflow prevention program. As you may be aware, backflow prevention devices are required for all sprinkler systems to guard against tainted water being drawn back into your home or into the water distribution system. Less known by many homeowners is that State of Oregon health regulations specify that most of these device(s) are to be tested each year to make sure that they continue to provide the desired protection.

With the large number of underground sprinkler systems at homes within our service area, the Whispering Pines Estates Water Company will attempted to make compliance with these regulations easier for our residential customers. Therefore, we have provided you with a letter explaining what cross connection is and how you can protect our system. Homeowners will have to hire a certified tester themselves at their own expense. A list of certified tested has been included.

If you have an irrigation system, and it is determined that your system has a backflow device that is not currently being tested, please take the time do get the device tested each year to stay in compliance with the State regulations. Please send a copy of your test result to Whispering Pines Estates Water P.O. Box 776 Shady Cove, OR 97539.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions. Thank you for helping provide the highest quality water to our valued customers.

Sincerely,

Dan Perkins
Water Quality Technician
(541)941-3951

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

Oregon Department of Human Services rules (OAR 333-061-070) require that public water systems maintain an active Cross Connection Control Program. A public water system is a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, if such system has more than three service connections, or supplies water to a public or commercial establishment that operates a total of at least 60 days per year, and that is used by 10 or more individuals per day. Public water system also means a system for the provision to the public of water through constructed conveyances other than pipes to at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days of the year). The purpose of this program is to ensure that the drinking water distribution system is protected from contamination via cross connections with non-potable water or other substances.

A “**cross connection**” is a point in the plumbing system where the potable water piping is connected directly, or has the potential to be connected, to a non-potable source. “**Backflow**” means the flow of water in the direction opposite of normal flow. This reverse flow is caused by either back-siphonage or backpressure. In order for backflow to occur, the link and the hydraulic condition must be present simultaneously such as having a high pressure well pump interconnected to home plumbing, or having an open valve during a water main break. Documented backflow contamination incidents have occurred all over the country.

Backflow prevention assemblies, when properly installed and maintained, can provide reliable protection against contamination from these cross connections. Annual testing is required for all backflow prevention assemblies to ensure proper function. The annual testing requirement in the rules is an essential component of the program, and assemblies can and do fail.

The type of backflow protections applied must be commensurate with the degree for hazard: “Reduced Pressure” assemblies protect against “hazardous to health” potential (chemicals, auxiliary water supplies); Double Check Valves, Pressure Vacuum Breakers, and Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers protect against “objectionable” hazards (landscape irrigation systems). The Double Check Valve assembly has emerged as the backflow protection of choice for sprinkler systems because it can be installed underground. This type of installation is preferred because it provides effective protection for most sprinkler system designs, is cost effective, easy to maintain, and protects against freezing while maintaining an aesthetically pleasing landscape.

Several factors are involved which can contribute to contamination of a water supply. If for some reason water system pressure were reduced by fire hydrant use or a water main break, it would be possible to create a siphon which would allow customers’ water to re-enter the domestic water system. Irrigation systems are one area where this siphon could draw objectionable water from a lawn or garden in to drinking water lines.

Cross connections can be made through direct plumbing of pipes or simply a connection to contaminants through a garden hose. In fact, one of the most notorious backflow incidents in another water system was directly attributed to a garden hose submerged in a drum of pesticides.

Individual home owners can help protect their water supplies by properly installing backflow prevention devices and using good plumbing practices. Some homeowner’s applications for these devices are irrigation systems, solar water heaters, swimming pools, auxiliary water supplies, which include private irrigation sources and wells.

Proper evaluation and classification of hazards in conjunction with the implementation of the cross connection control program can go a long way toward ensuring safe, high quality water for everyone.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE TESTERS

Listed alphabetically below are some of the Oregon state certified backflow prevention device testers working in the Rogue Valley area who have requested inclusion on this list. This list is for customer information only and does not represent endorsement of any individual or company. Annual device testing may be performed by any state certified tester. Contact the Dan Perkins at 541-941-3951 if you have any questions.

Scott Bradley (OHD #3402)
P.O. Box 313
Medford OR 97501
541-601-2259

Christie Paxton (OHD #3928)
P.O. Box 2276
White City OR 97503
541-826-3770

Carol's Colors
P.O. Box 1169
Phoenix OR 97535
541-535-7074

Rogue Valley Backflow Service
Mark Jamieson (OHD #3741)
565 Wrights Creek Dr.
Ashland OR 97520
541-482-9464 (office)
541-890-1874 (cell)

Don Clogston Fire Protection (OHD #3595)
DeAnn Strang (OHD #4030)
2641 Scenic Ave.
Central Point OR 97502
541-664-2719 or 541-821-1807

Southern Oregon Backflow Service
Bruce Bateman (OHD #64)
Or Phillip L. Sander (OHD #3087)
3040 Table Rock Rd.
Medford OR 97501
541-779-8927

Hydro-Flow, Inc.
Shawn M. Cherry (OHD #2985)
P.O. Box 3849
Central Point OR 97502
541-772-4453

J.D. Mullins & Company (OHD #4107)
P.O. Box 567
Ashland OR 97520
541-488-4953