

## ORCHARD HEIGHTS WATER ASSOCIATION POLICY

### **POLICY STATEMENT: #6**

**TITLE: CROSS CONNECTION PROCEDURES**

**DATE APPROVED: 7/15/97**

**REVISED DATE(S): revised 10/18/2016**

This policy provides the methods and procedures for the implementation and enforcement of a cross connection control program. OHWA is Orchard Heights Water Association.

### **Authority and Responsibility**

Pursuant to Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 333, Division 061 Oregon Health Division regulations for public water supply systems, it is a requirement and the responsibility of OHWA to provide water to the customers that meet Oregon water quality standards and to prevent contamination of the public water supply system. Cross connections within the plumbing systems of the premises of the OHWA members and/or owners pose potential sources for the contamination of the OHWA public water supply system. It is the responsibility of OHWA to protect its drinking water by instituting and enforcing a cross connection control program.

### **Purpose and Requirements**

The purpose of these regulations is to protect public health and the quality of the drinking water supply in the OHWA distribution system from potential contamination by cross connections. Inspection and regulation of all actual or potential cross connections between the OHWA public drinking water system and any other source of water, potable or otherwise, is required in order to minimize the potential of contamination of the public drinking water supply system. Controlling and preventing cross connections is accomplished by either removing the cross connection or installing an approved backflow prevention device assembly to protect the public drinking water supply system.

### **Definitions**

Approved Backflow Prevention Device Assembly is a device designed to prevent backflow or back-siphonage and which is accepted by the Oregon Health Division as meeting an applicable standard and is suitable for the proposed use.

Backflow is a reversal of normal flow in the distribution system caused by a negative pressure condition (back-siphonage), or by an increase in the down-stream pressure above that of the distribution system pressure (back pressure).

Cross Connection is any actual or potential connection or structural arrangement between the OHWA distribution system or member and/or owner plumbing system and any other potable water system, water source, or system through which it is possible to introduce into any part of the OHWA distribution system any used water, any other source of water, potable or otherwise, or an industrial fluid, gas, or substance other than the intended OHWA drinking water with which the system is supplied. By-pass arrangements, jumper

connections, removable sections, swivel or changeover devices, and any other temporary or permanent devices through which or because of which backflow can or may occur are considered to be cross connections.

Degree of Hazard is derived from an evaluation of the potential risk of the cross connection to public health, and is categorized as either high hazard or low hazard. A high degree of hazard is considered to be a risk to public health and would require maximum protection such as an air gap or reduced pressure principal backflow prevention device assembly. A low degree of hazard is not considered to be a risk to public health and would require a double check valve assembly, pressure vacuum breaker assembly, or atmospheric vacuum breaker.

### **General Provisions**

OHWA is required to eliminate or control all cross connections throughout the distribution system. Therefore, anyone wanting or using water from OHWA is required to comply with these general provisions. The owner of the property in which a backflow occurs is fully responsible for all damages incurred.

As recommended by the membership at the November 9, 1999, Annual Membership Meeting, all service connections shall have at a minimum, a double check valve assembly.

The type of backflow prevention device assembly to be installed, as determined by the Operator of OHWA, shall be commensurate with the degree of hazard as established by the Operator of OHWA and as generally accepted and defined by the water industry but in no circumstance is it to be less than a double-check valve. The brand and model of the backflow prevention device assembly to be installed must be an approved device listed by the Oregon Health Division and approved by the OHWA Board of Directors.

The member and/or owner of the premise is responsible for all costs and fees associated with the purchase and installation of the backflow prevention device assembly. The member and/or owner is responsible for meeting all construction requirements associated with the installation of the approved backflow device assembly as provided in Oregon Health Division regulation OAR Chapter 333-061-0071, and as supervised by the Operator of OHWA. The approved backflow prevention device assembly shall be installed on the service line after the service meter, or at a location agreed to by the Operator of OHWA. The member/owner is also responsible for the maintenance, repair, and annual testing of the backflow prevention device assembly, and for all costs and fees associated with these activities.

OHWA shall be held harmless for any changes in a plumbing system of any premise due to the installation of an approved backflow prevention device assembly as a result of thermal expansion from the water heater or loss of pressure through the device. The Operator of OHWA shall notify the member and/or owner of the premise of these possibilities at the time of notification of the requirement to install an approved backflow prevention device assembly.

All approved backflow prevention device assemblies are required to be tested at least annually. Completed test reports shall be returned to OHWA by September 30 of each year in order to allow time to compile the data and submit the required report to the Oregon Health Authority. Tests and inspections may be required on a more frequent basis at the discretion of the Operator of OHWA.

The Operator of OHWA shall have free access at reasonable hours of the day to all parts of a premise or within buildings to which water is supplied in order to conduct inspections. Failure of the customer to allow access shall result in the requirement to install an approved backflow prevention device assembly for a high degree of hazard.

Failure of the customer to cooperate in the installation, maintenance, repair, inspection, or testing of backflow prevention device assemblies required by these general provisions shall be grounds for termination of water service to the premise.

Any decision related to these cross connection rules which the owner and/or member considers unfair may be appealed to the Board of Directors of OHWA for a review and final decision. The appeal must be in writing and is required to be submitted to the Board of Directors of OHWA within 30 days of the original decision. All appeals decisions by the Board of Directors of OHWA related to these cross connection rules are final.

These general provisions may supersede state regulations, but in no case shall they be less stringent.

### **Responsibilities- Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors of OHWA will enforce the general provisions of these regulations which include but are not limited to the following program elements:

1. Enforce the requirements to install approved backflow prevention device assemblies as determined by the Operator of OHWA.
2. Issue letters of notification of the need to install backflow prevention device assemblies as directed by the Operator of OHWA.
3. Authorize the termination of water service to those failing or refusing to comply with these requirements.
4. Pay for training and certification of the Operator of OHWA as a Cross Connection Control Inspector, and all update training to maintain certification.
5. Authorize inspections of premises by the Operator of OHWA to determine cross connection potential and degree of hazard for the purpose of requiring the installation of the correct backflow prevention device assembly.
6. Issue a general statement of concern about cross connections to the OHWA members annually.
7. Arrange for and ensure that testing of backflow prevention devices occurs annually.

### **Responsibilities- Operator**

The Operator of OHWA will enforce the general provisions of these regulations which include but are not limited to the following program elements:

1. Obtain and maintain certification training as a Cross Connection Control Inspector.
2. Maintain a list of premises where potential cross connections might occur, and inspect or inquire as to changes to the list.
3. Inspect premises for potential cross connections and determine the degree of hazard.

4. Require the installation of a backflow prevention device assembly commensurate with the degree of hazard.
5. Terminate water service to those premises who fail or refuse to comply with these regulations.
6. Maintain a list of approved backflow prevention device assemblies
7. Maintain a list of certified backflow testers in the Salem area.
8. Collect backflow device test reports and maintain records of activities related to the cross connection program.
9. Develop an annual summary report on cross connection program activities for the Board of Directors and present this report at the annual meeting of the membership.

The Operator of OHWA may delegate these responsibilities to a Certified Cross Connection Control Inspector directly employed by, or under contract with OHWA to conduct this cross connection control program.

#### **Responsibilities- OHWA Members**

The members of OHWA will abide by the general provisions of these regulations which include but are not limited to the following program elements:

1. Notify the Operator of OHWA when any new construction or any changes to the plumbing system may constitute an actual or potential cross connection.
2. Respond to inquiries and allow premise inspections.
3. Install an approved backflow prevention device assembly commensurate with the degree of hazard as directed by the Operator of OHWA.
4. Be responsible for the cost of annual testing, maintenance, and repair of the backflow prevention device assembly.
5. Appeal any decisions related to these rules considered to be unfair to the Board of Directors in writing within 30 days of the decision.

#### **Severability**

If any part of these rules is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, or the application of any part of these rules to any person or set of circumstances is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, the validity or enforceability of the remaining rules or its application to other persons shall not be affected.

#### **APPROVED:**

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Secretary/Treasurer or President