



Tempe Environmental Bulletin

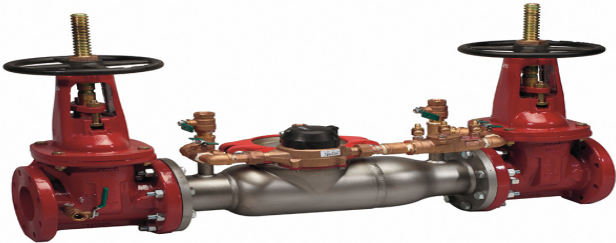
November 2014

Volume 10, Issue 4

Changes to City of Tempe Backflow Program

Tempe's Environmental Services Section administers the City's Backflow Prevention Program, in accordance with Arizona Administrative Code, R18-4-215, and Tempe City Code, Chapter 33, Article 5. The purpose of the Backflow Prevention Program is to protect the public water supply from the undesirable reversal of the flow of water or other substances into the public water system. Backflow can occur when pressure fluctuations within the City's water system or private service connections cause pollutants to siphon back into the City's water system without proper protection. Back pressure is the result of higher pressure in the user system than in the water supply; while backsiphonage is a result of reduced pressure in the supply—either can result in backflow into the potable water system. Tempe ensures backflow prevention by inspecting service connections for compliance with ordinances related to backflow, tracking the annual testing of all private and publically owned backflow assemblies to ensure proper operation, and investigating water quality complaint and backflow incidents. The City encourages the testing of privately owned assemblies which serve as internal protection for facility owners and their employees.

Over the last several years, the City has developed a compliance data system (CDS) to track tester certification, test calibration records, and the test results of both private and publicly owned assemblies. Through the use of a web based portal and an IOS application (iPhone/iPad app) test results can be submitted electronically to CDS either from a user's desk top or while in the field through the app. Testers are reminded to maintain their account by keeping the test kit calibration current and to renew/update their tester certifications.



To find out whether the tester you are using is approved, visit <http://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/public-works/water/backflow-prevention-program>.

A link to the most recent tester list is available at the bottom of the page. Or you can call the City of Tempe at (480) 350-2678.

What Is Stormwater Smart?

"Be Stormwater Smart" and visit our website for Best Management Practices you can use to reduce the risk of adding pollutants to stormwater. <http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater>

You can also use this website to learn more about Tempe's Stormwater Management Program, to report illicit discharges to storm drains, or to file a stormwater related complaint.

Remember that it is a violation of the City of Tempe Code to cause or allow a non-stormwater discharge to a stormwater drain!

As required by Tempe's stormwater permit, Environmental Compliance Inspectors have significantly increased commercial and industrial stormwater inspections. If you would like to schedule an inspection at your facility, please call: (480) 350-2678.

